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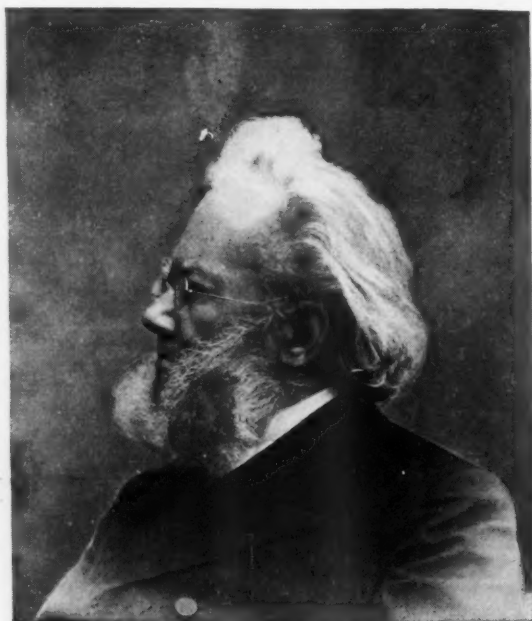


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# The American-Scandinavian Review

VOLUME XXI

MARCH, 1933

NUMBER 3

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## FINANCIAL NOTES

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT REDEEMS LOAN  
BY FLOATING ANOTHER LOAN

For the purpose of redeeming the outstanding portion of the 5 per cent Swedish Government loan of 1923, amounting to 66,582,400 kronor, another loan was issued with interest rate of 4 per cent, and offered at 97½. Although the minimum amount of the new issue is placed at 66,582,400 kronor, this amount can be increased if the holders of the 1923 bonds are willing to have this done when exchanging the old bonds for the new. The new issue bonds were offered on December 9, and are redeemable not before March 15, 1943, after at least three months' notice. They are issued in denominations of 5,000, 1,000, 500, and 100 kronor.

W. S. GRAY, JR., NEW CENTRAL  
HANOVER BANK PRESIDENT

William S. Gray, Jr., former executive vice-president of the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company, has been elected president of the bank, succeeding George W. Davison, who has become chairman of the board of directors. William Woodward, formerly chairman, has been elected honorary chairman. As the youngest bank president in New York, Mr. Gray will head the seventh largest banking institution in the United States. Graduating from Princeton, in 1919, he served in the World War as a lieutenant in the navy. He became vice-president of the Central Union Trust Company in 1925, and since 1929 has been the executive vice-president of the bank of which he is now the head.

NORWEGIAN SHIPOWNERS REQUEST  
MONEY LEFT FROM STATE FUND

The Norwegian Shipowners Association has applied to the Government for the balance of the so-called State Shipping Fund, amounting to 6,700,000 kroner, as an aid in the competition against State-subsidized foreign shipping. The fund was established during the World War, and the Norwegian shipowners desire to dispose of this sum in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, the money to be spent in cases where Norwegian ships might otherwise be of necessity transferred to another flag.

DENMARK TAKES STOCK OF  
PAST YEAR'S FINANCE AND TRADE

The first month of 1933 registered a slight improvement in trade and finance, but Danish industrial and financial leaders are not yet recovered from the conditions that obtained last year. The average prices for agricultural export products were lower than in 1931, while the reduced purchasing power of the population at home tended to curtail output. Unemployment among trade union members was practically doubled. The British scheme for an immediate curtailment of about 20 per cent in the importation of Danish bacon was among the outstanding disappointments of the year. It is believed that the Government's plan to spend 100,000,000 kroner in the construction of public works, to counteract unemployment, will tend to show a better balance sheet for the present year.

THOMAS W. LAMONT ON  
AMERICAN BANK FAILURES

In a recent address before the Academy of Political Science, Thomas W. Lamont, of J. P. Morgan & Company, made the urgent plea that banks throughout the country, which are not yet members of the Federal Reserve system, should join it for their own and the public's protection. Mr. Lamont affirmed that out of the total of \$1,691,510,000 deposits tied up by all bank failures during 1931, \$957,982,000 were those of non-member banks. The financier added that failures of non-member banks during recent years have been four and a half times more numerous than of banks that were members of the Federal Reserve system. He blamed imperfect State banking laws and banks organized with insufficient capital under State charters for much of the trouble as regards bank failures, especially in the smaller communities.

L. M. ERICSSON MEXICAN  
COMPANY ELECTS OFFICERS

At the recent shareholders' meeting of the Mexican Telephone Company, one of the important subsidiaries of the L. M. Ericsson Telephone Company of Stockholm, Hans Th. Holm, head of the L. M. Ericsson Company, and Sven Lindström were elected members of the board of directors. Marcus Wallenberg of the Stockholm Enskilda Bank, Hemming Johansson, and Bernhard Wahlquist were reelected directors. Mr. Lindström, who was also appointed managing director of the Mexican company, according to the *Swedish American Trade Journal*, has a long experience as a telephone builder, having been the head of the large L. M. Ericsson factory in Austria for the past six years, and he previously represented his company in China and other countries.

BERGEN SHIPOWNERS DISCUSS  
NEW INSURANCE ACT

At a meeting of the Bergen Shipowners' Association, Olaf Örvig reviewed the new draft of the Insurance Act of 1911, which requires that all the marine and fire insurance companies are to have fully paid-up capital of at least 500,000 kroner after the lapse of five years. The extension of the power of the Insurance Council, Mr. Örvig averred, was against the interests of the shipowners, and he felt that the members of the Association should register their protest against barriers that would hamper the international trading of the Norwegian fleet by making insurance requirements more difficult.

DANISH RESTRICTION OF IMPORTS  
THROUGH EXCHANGE CONTROL

The new Danish law restricting imports went into effect with the new year. Under this law a list of articles estimated to comprise about two-thirds of Denmark's total imports, and including most important manufactured articles and some raw materials, can only be imported upon special permit, to be obtained in advance by the importer from the exchange office of the National Bank of Denmark. The law also authorizes the Minister of Commerce to issue additional regulations on listed goods.

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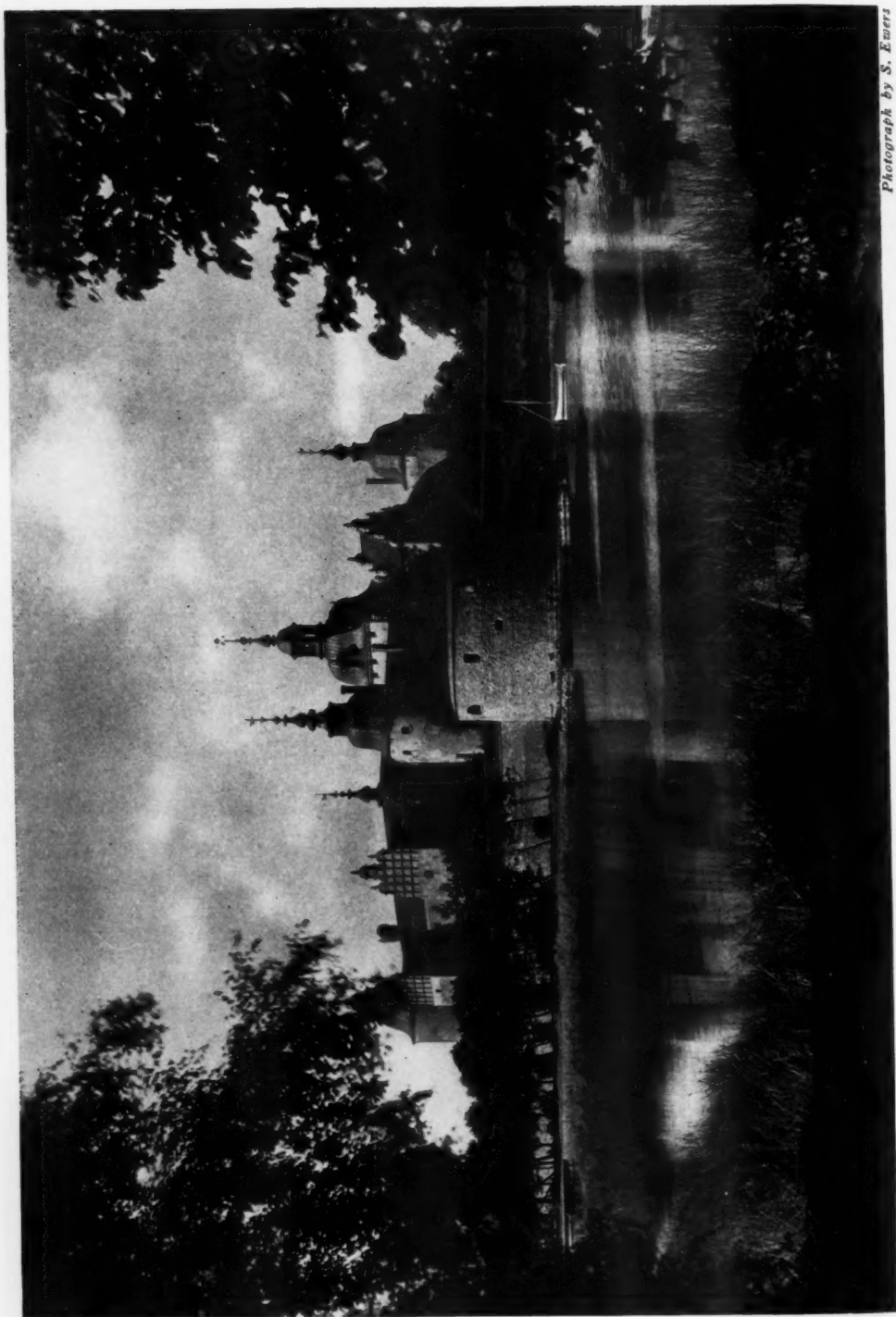
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*Photograph by S. Ewers*

KALMAR CASTLE SEEN FROM THE NORTH

THE  
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Kalmar Castle, the Key to Sweden

*By* MANNE HOFRÉN

ON THE SHORES of Kalmar Sound the ancient bulwark, Kalmar Castle, lifts its festive throng of graceful Renaissance towers. The Key to Sweden is the honorary title which this fortress has long borne, and that name it has well earned. Countless times it has stood fire for Mother Svea.

The castle looks proudly out over one of the most important settlements of old Sweden, the province about Kalmar Sound, in the southeastern part of the country. The waterway is in fact the life nerve of this region, a narrow passage stretching from north to south a length of nearly one hundred and fifty kilometers. The channel is alive with boats; and while it must be admitted that the smokestacks predominate, the sails still form a striking part of the picture. In all times a large number of craft have plied the Sound, in peaceful and in warlike pursuits; for it is one of the oldest trade routes of the Baltic. The Sound is bordered on the west by the wooded strand of Småland and on the east by the mighty shore line of the beautiful island of Öland—fertile, rich, beautiful parishes.

Historical parishes they are, for Mother Svea has always counted the Kalmar region among the most treasured areas of her domain; in this region the game for Kingdom and Crown has been played more than once; here blood has flowed; here life has sung its rushing song. The history of the North is highly dramatic; if the stones of Kalmar Castle could speak, there would be brought to light many a drama of strong Shakespearean accent. For everything that took place in olden times focused upon Kalmar Castle, this storehouse of Swedish, and indeed of Scandinavian, history. Anyone who is fascinated by the changing drama of history will find his fill in Kalmar Castle.

But the traveler who is more interested in the esthetic aspects will also be richly rewarded, for the castle is in itself an architectural gem. It is one of northern Europe's most beautiful landmarks, visited every year by thousands of tourists from Sweden and abroad. On three sides the waves plash below ramparts and towers, and along the other side is a moat, which, until this autumn, when work was started to dig it out again, has been for a long time filled up. The castle probably presents its loveliest picture from the water side, but the aeroplane passenger gets the best impression of its general plan. From the air one sees that the castle rises within a court bounded by a powerful outer rampart of earthen walls with a round bastion in each corner. The castle proper is rectangular, with a round tower in each corner, and four additional square towers. This structure is built around a square inner court, and as one looks down from the aeroplane, one spies the artistic stone well which graces the center of the court.

The glimpse from above must, however, be complemented by actual observation at close range, which only a walk through the courts and towers, the halls and chambers, can give. Although it is difficult to convey in black and white any conception of the castle's distinctive atmosphere, I would invite the reader to such an inspection, in the hope that he may consider it worth his while sometime to visit Kalmar Castle in person.

Wandering through the wooded castle park toward the castle on a warm summer day, we are met by the mingled sweet and salty scent of seaweed and roses. The castle looks like a thousand-year-old giant, and indeed it lacks but little of that age. About the year 1200, or perhaps even in the preceding century, the stronghold began to rise, and during the following centuries it grew apace, through alterations and additions. During the sixteenth century especially—the period of the Vasa Kings—a great deal of work was done. Gustav Vasa began at that time the construction of the mighty rampart around the castle, which was built in accordance with the most advanced art of fortification then known. The wings were built out and the halls adorned with all the splendor of the Northern Renaissance. Gustav Vasa's sons, Erik XIV and John III, were especially active in having the castle redecorated and beautified as a veritable royal palace. It is this blend of the medieval and the Renaissance which gives Kalmar Castle its greatest charm and its unique character.

Arriving at the castle, we find ourselves right below Gustav Vasa's rampart which looms, strong and threatening, before us. We come to a round arched portal in the rampart, where we encounter an example

of the castle's sculptural decorations, namely, the Swedish coat of arms in stone relief, flanked by two fierce lions. Thus at the very entrance the castle is marked as a fortress justifying its name, the Key to Sweden. The portal leads us by a long, winding path to a narrow courtyard which encircles the castle and is bounded on its outer edge by the rampart.

From this outer courtyard, another entrance leads into the inner court, the façades of which are among the best specimens of Northern Renaissance architecture. The walls are painted with a simple, but very decorative,

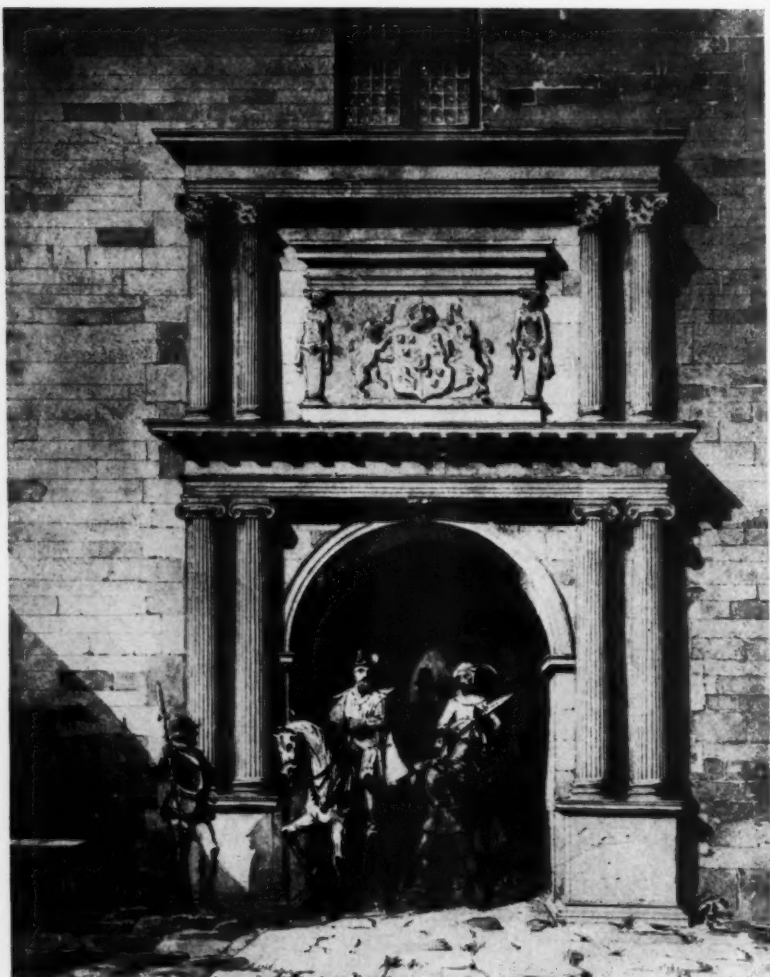
checked pattern. Nearly all the doors have stately portals of stone, the most magnificent being that of the main entrance, which is two stories high, with columns, border, and coat of arms in decided Renaissance. The portals bear the monogram of John III, and must date from his reign (1569-92), as does also the castle well in the inner court. This wonderful bit of construction, one of the happiest conceits of Northern architecture, is rightly famed far and wide. The architects who deserve credit for it are, first and foremost, the Pahr brothers, who were called in from Germany by John III. Another foreign master, the Scotchman Roland Mackle, is responsible for the stonecutting and carving of the well. The Vasa Kings made it a point to procure the very best artists for the many castles they built in Sweden and Finland, and consequently Kalmar Castle represents not Swedish art alone, but the European art of this period.

The dark basement entrances and the musty dungeons in the lower regions of the castle look forbidding in the sunshine of a summer day, and we prefer to go up the steps and into the spacious and light royal residential rooms. We come upon a succession of large, splendid halls,



*Photograph by H. Sandberg*

TOWERS OF KALMAR CASTLE SEEN FROM THE SOUTHWEST



THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CASTLE  
*After a Water Color by F. W. Scholander*

all representative of Renaissance furnishing. Here is the Queen's Hall, the walls of which are adorned with painted tapestries and a frieze of vines under the ceiling. The room has a magnificent limestone fireplace. On the walls hang portraits of the kings and queens of the Vasa dynasty.

The next room is called the

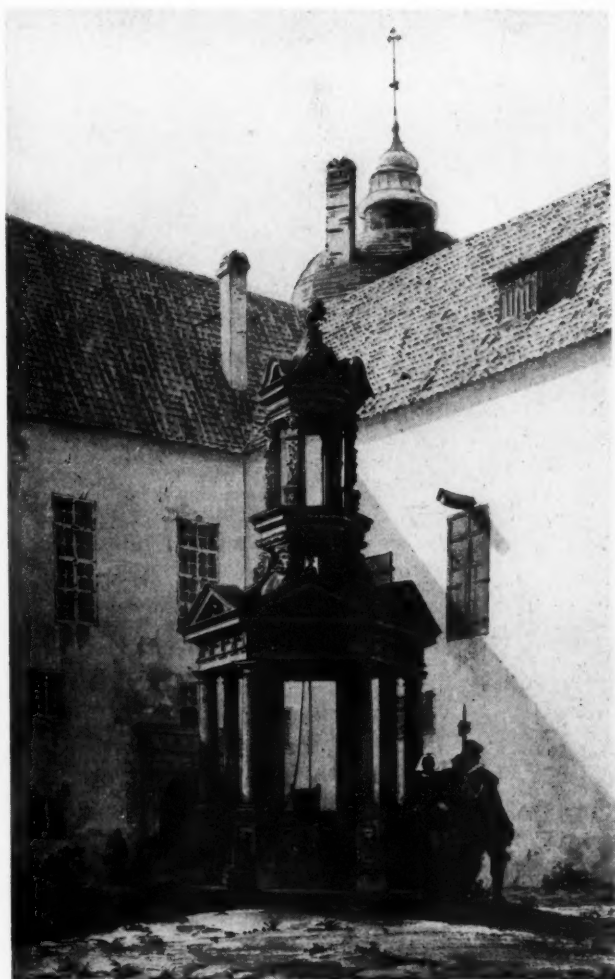
Parquetry Hall. Its walls are beautifully paneled, with wood mosaic in architectural patterns, flower urns, and arabesques. The next room is quite as elaborate, with its boldly coffered ceiling and interesting murals depicting scenes from the story of Samson. We see how Samson slew the Philistines; how he carried away the gateposts of the city of Gaza, how Delilah robbed him of his strength, and how he pulled down the pillars of the temple after his hair had grown. These murals were painted in 1586 by a Dutch artist. From this hall a door opens into the famous little tower room, King Erik's Room, which, in all its fantastic splendor, gleams like a costly jewel case. Wooden columns are built into the walls all around the room, and are

further adorned with mussel-crowned recesses and rich wood mosaic. Hunting scenes are depicted in a stucco frieze—here a dangerous wild boar is being killed; here the dogs are worrying a bear; here are deer on the run, foxes and rabbits. In the window recesses a legendary world of flowers and birds is conjured up. The ceiling glitters in the richest carving and mosaic. This festive room was furnished by King Erik and completed in 1562.

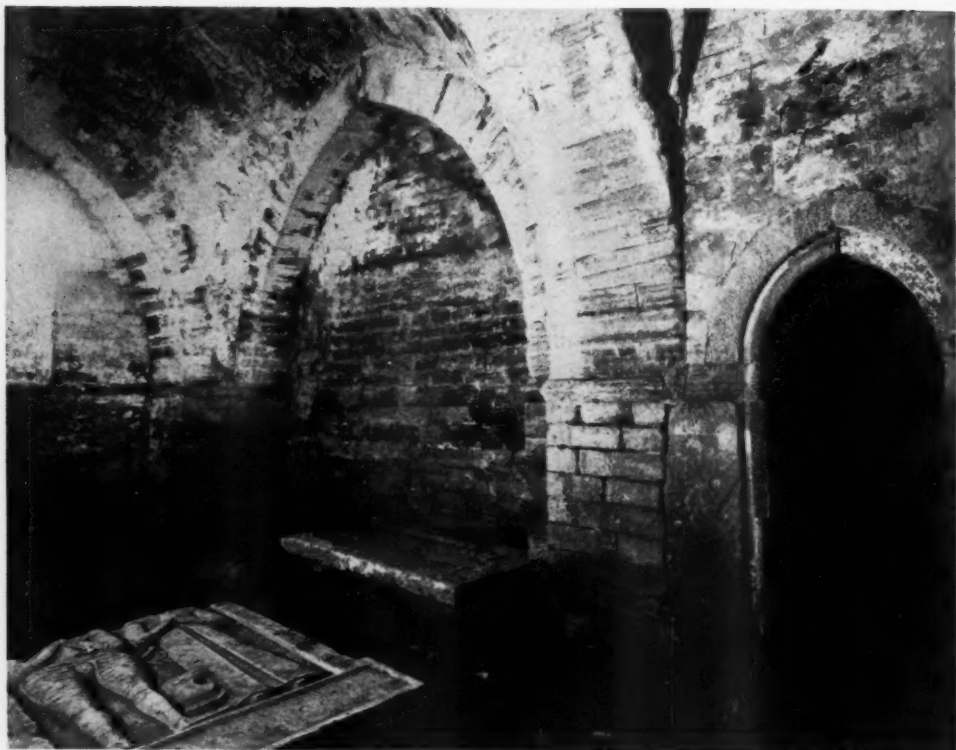
Next to the Gray Hall is the Golden Hall, an enormous room, with a beautifully carved ceiling dating from 1576, its coffered squares resplendent in gold and colors. The next large room is the enormous

Green Hall, of whose former magnificence but little remains. The room was formerly called Union Hall, since tradition says that it was here the Kalmar Union was formed in 1397.

From this room we step into the chapel, built in the sixteenth century, but furnished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We find here art motifs from different periods, but they blend to a beautiful and harmonious whole, features of the elaborate royal chapel being combined with those of the idyllic country church. The chapel is to this day regularly used; in fact, services have been held here since the sixteenth century. It is especially popular for weddings, and countless couples have chosen to tie the knot for life in this romantic chapel.



THE WELL IN THE INNER COURT  
*After a Water Color by F. W. Scholander, 1850*

*Photograph by H. Sandberg*

## GOTHIC ROOM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL TOWER

The largest room on the royal floor is the Burned Hall, so called because of a devastating fire in the 1640s, which destroyed all the furnishings. Architecturally it is magnificent. The windows are set in deep recesses reaching from the floor to the ceiling, so that the walls give the appearance of arcades. In its severe simplicity the room inspires a sense of awe. In this gigantic room, the rich collections of the provincial museum, indicative of Småland's and Öland's ancient customs, are exhibited. Here are treasures which date back five thousand years, proving that Kalmar Castle stands in the midst of a region whose history derives from very ancient times. There is something satisfying in the thought that this old fortress, around whose walls battles have raged so long and so often, has at last become the home of the relics which exemplify cultural development.

That Kalmar Castle now stands before us so beautiful and so well preserved is due primarily to the extensive work which has been carried on for the past ten years, financed by the Swedish State which, properly enough, recognized in Kalmar Castle one of the country's most

valuable historic assets. A demand for its restoration was first urged by Professor A. Hahr, and the initiative in the salvaging of this proud old building was taken finally by Governor John Falk, when, in the year 1919, he put the matter before the Royal Building Commission. This led to the beginning, in 1920, of the restoration work which is still under way, directed by the country's foremost specialist in this field, Professor of Architecture Martin Olsson. Year after year he has brought to light old hidden and forgotten beauties, and through his efforts this treasure house of Svea Realm is gradually regaining its former glory.

Outside the ramparts of Kalmar Castle a plant grows, which from of old has been called Man's Blood. Carl von Linné, the flower king, noticed it when he visited Kalmar, and he relates the popular interpretation of the name: the plant, the story goes, has sprung up from "the blood of the Swedes and Danes who fell on this field in former wars." This old story suggests in a poetic way an eventful chapter in the story of Kalmar Castle—bloody wars have been waged about it down through the centuries, and it has nearly always been Danes and Swedes who have measured their strength here. In looking through any history of the castle, one encounters on every other page accounts of sieges and feuds. A smell of burnt powder rises from the page, and we listen for rifle shots. Much blood has been spilled in the struggle for the Key to Sweden.

Yet the history of the castle contains other important chapters as well; the Northern people have often met there in peace and for counsel, and Kalmar has its name linked with Queen Margareta's great statesmanlike thought of uniting the three countries.

But let us scan a little the earlier pages of the annals. We are carried all the way back to the time of the Vikings, for even then Kalmar must have been an important trading center. The harbor existed in the 1020s, for at that time the Norwegian King, Olaf Haraldsson, known later as St. Olaf, landed there with his ships after the struggle in which he and the Svea King joined forces against Denmark. A hundred years later, 1123, another Norwegian king appeared there, Sigurd Jerusalem-Farer, who came down with his army to convert the inhabitants of Småland, who were still part heathen, to Christianity. We find, then, that from the very beginning, Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes have all played their part in the history of Kalmar.

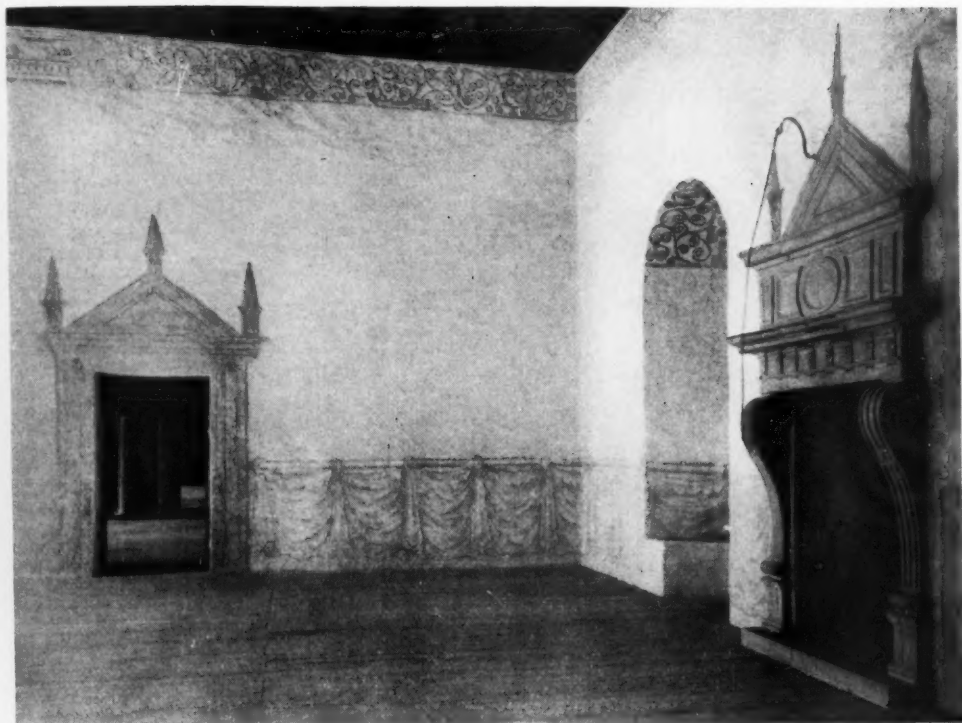
In the twelfth century Kalmar grew into a real city, built mighty walls similar to Visby's, and a stronghold which was the forerunner of Kalmar Castle. It is in fact one of the oldest cities of the North.

*Photograph by S. Ewers*

THE GORGEOUS TOWER ROOM KNOWN AS KING ERIK'S ROOM

Through extensive excavations we have been able to unearth this old city, whose foundations now lie under the ground. During the Middle Ages, Kalmar was for a long time, next to Stockholm, Sweden's most important city. In it were held, during the thirteenth century, many significant meetings and councils. The great Birger Jarl, Sweden's actual ruler, gathered here in the year 1266 a brilliant assemblage of clerical and lay dignitaries, emissaries of the Pope and others, to organize the national church.

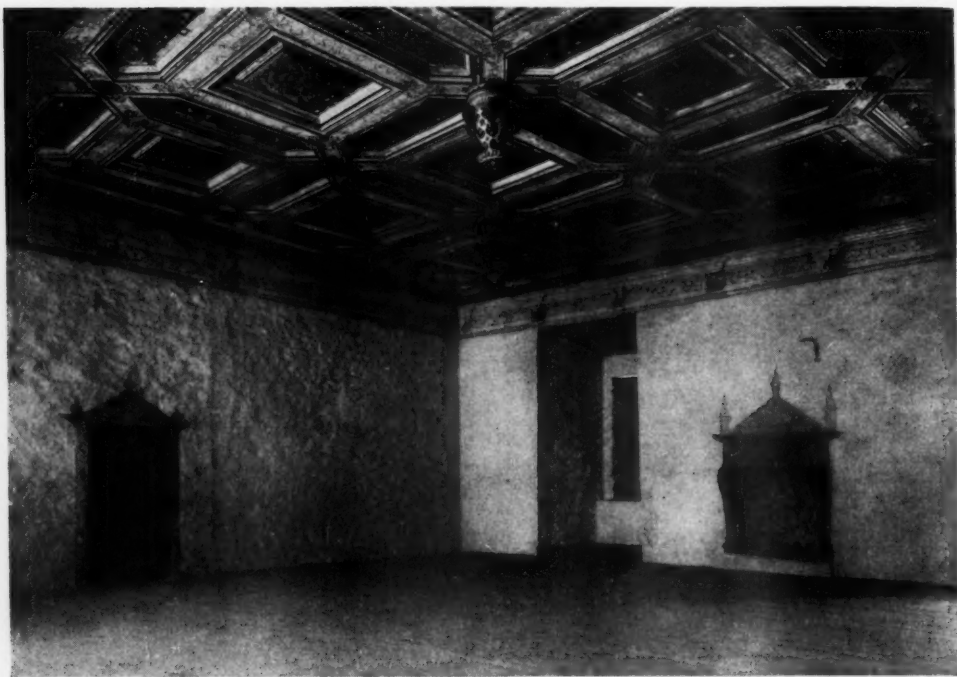
If we turn the pages of the Kalmar chronicle further we find another great Swedish figure, King Magnus Lock-the-Barn, who celebrated here, in 1276, his union with Helvig of Holstein. In its simple, crisp style, the old Rimkrönika (Rhyme Chronicle) relates: "Her father had her conducted to the city of Kalmar. And when Magnus caught sight of her, he thanked God and said: 'I will marry her before I sally forth into Denmark to plunder and burn.'" During King Magnus' time, in 1285, a peculiarly significant event became associated with Kalmar, when the King acted as arbiter in a disagreement between Denmark, Norway, and the Hanseatic League, and by his decision settled the trade policies of the Baltic for a long time.



Photograph by S. Ewers

THE QUEEN'S HALL WITH STONE FIREPLACE AND WALL DECORATIONS FROM THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

In the thirteenth century Kalmar played an important part as the center of political congresses. But during the fourteenth century it became more and more a seat of war. The place became involved in the unscrupulous and bloody family feuds which characterize our history during the rule of the Folkung dynasty in Sweden. Strife and struggle raged fiercely around towers and ramparts, and the castle passed from hand to hand. The history of the Folkung period has tempted some of our greatest writers: Strindberg has used it as his theme for *The Saga of the Folkungs*, and Heidenstam, in his *Tree of the Folkungs* has created a medieval Swedish epic of rare strength and depth. In this dynasty there was no love of family, no consideration for one's fellowmen—only love of power. It was, for example, the lust for power which led the Dukes Erik and Valdemar to rise against their brother, King Birger, in 1306. Especially prominent was Kalmar's rôle under the rule of Duke Erik's son, King Magnus Smek. He seems to have lived frequently in Kalmar Castle with his beautiful wife, Queen Blanche of Namur. This King enacted a number of good laws, with which his name is associated. But there was a continual



*Photograph by S. Ewers*

THE GOLDEN HALL WITH AN ELABORATELY CARVED AND PAINTED CEILING, FROM 1576



*Photograph by H. Sandberg*

THE PARQUETRY HALL WITH PANELS IN WOOD MOSAICS

storm around Magnus; he had to conduct numerous wars against foreign enemies; his sons revolted; he had serious disagreements with the Pope, and many other difficulties. In 1356 his son Erik raised the rebel banner against him at Kalmar in an attempt to usurp the throne. Soon thereafter Erik and his wife, Beatrice, died of the pestilence, but then the King's second son, Håkan, revolted. During the wars with Denmark the Danish King, Valdemar Atterdag, ravaged Öland and sacked Visby—serious trials indeed for the King and his country.

The fall of the Folkung dynasty belongs to Kalmar history. The Swedish leaders rebelled against Magnus in 1363. Kalmar Castle surrendered to this party, and a fleet from Mecklenburg landed in Kalmar, bringing a new pretender to the throne, Duke Albrecht, who took possession of Kalmar Castle, but this proved to be a poor exchange. After a very few decades a new figure appeared on the scene—this was Denmark's great Queen, Margareta, who, at the request of the Swedes took issue with King Albrecht and defeated his armies in 1389. After this war Queen Margareta came to Kalmar Castle, and Kalmar was made the center of activities to an even greater extent than formerly. In Margareta's plans were included the creation of an actual union among the peoples of the North. For it was here that the idea of the Kalmar Union was discussed and the agreement drawn up, in conjunction with the coronation of the successor to the throne, Erik of Pomerania, in 1397. These coronation days form the most picturesque of the memories of Kalmar city and castle. Tournaments and fêtes were held; clerical and lay leaders from the three kingdoms gathered here, and, with their shining armor and elaborate robes, gave color and glamour to the city.

During the period of the Kalmar Union, Kalmar was the seat of a number of Northern meetings and councils, and of much controversy as well. King Erik soon made himself unpopular with the Swedes, and many efforts were made to dissolve the Union, which had miserably failed of its purpose. Among others, the famous hero and folk-leader Engelbrekt tried, in 1436, to seize Kalmar, but without success. The same year a great reconciliation meeting between King Erik and the lords of Sweden was held in Kalmar. In the perpetual conflict between the party that favored the Union and the Swedish independence party, Kalmar Castle was always in the fire.

At about the beginning of the sixteenth century the Swedish-Danish conflict came to a climax. In 1519-20 the Danes besieged Kalmar, which was then occupied by the Swedish leader Sten Sture. Those were anxious years; Sweden's fate hung in the balance. In 1520 the Danish

King, Christian II, stood before the walls of Kalmar, which was defended by a gallant woman, Anna Bjelke, the wife of the late commander. Danish hosts surrounded the city. It was at this crucial moment that a young fugitive from Lübeck landed at Stensö, a short distance south of Kalmar Castle. This fugitive, who was none other than the future King, Gustav Eriksson Vasa, managed to make his way through the Danish lines to the castle. There he attempted to organize a war of independence against Denmark, but getting no support he continued up through the country, and finally found aid among the Dalecarlians. With their help he began his campaign to free Sweden from Danish rule. During this time Kalmar Castle had, however, been forced to surrender to the Danes. A Swedish army attempted to take it back, but failed. Gustav Vasa then dispatched a clever envoy, Bernt von Mehlen, who succeeded, where weapons had failed, in securing the release of the castle. In appreciation for this good work, Gustav gave him Kalmar in fief. But this confidence was ill requited; von Mehlen entered into a conspiracy with the enemy, and when Gustav Vasa demanded the castle he refused to turn it over. There was no way for the new Swedish King to take the fortress again except by force of arms, and in 1525 Gustav arrived with a strong army before Kalmar. He stormed the fortification, an undertaking which cost the blood of so many good warriors that Gustav, who could hardly be called tender-hearted, is said to have shed tears at the sight of his fallen men. When, later, peace reigned in the land, Gustav Vasa began building the great rampart which made Kalmar the strongest fortress in the North.

The castle and city still had in store the severest trial of all, however. This was the so-called Kalmar War of 1611-13. The Danish King, Christian IV, arrived in person with a very strong army. After successful battles, he took the city itself; but the castle managed to hold out until by the treachery of the commander, Krister Some, it passed into the hands of the enemy. So the Danes again came into possession of Kalmar Castle, and held it until the treaty of peace in 1613. It was in this war that the young Gustavus Adolphus served his first apprenticeship as a soldier. That the training was good, we learn from the history of the victories by means of which he raised his country to the rank of a great power. Never again did Sweden have to see enemies within her border, and at last Kalmar Castle found peace.

But the castle still has its ghost, a black lady, who haunts it, wandering restlessly about. Perchance she is History herself.

# FAMOUS PAINTINGS IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AT OSLO

Notes by JOHAN H. LANGAARD

## III. *The Breakfast Table*, by Gustav Wentzel

Christian Krohg's example was soon followed by a group of young painters who zealously devoted themselves to the portrayal of those less favorably situated in society. One of the chief of this group is Gustav Wentzel, who himself sprang from the petty bourgeois milieu of the artisan. He was born in 1859 and died in 1927.

*The Breakfast Table* introduces us to a room in an artisan's home where the family, more or less clothed, is assembled around the breakfast table. It is early in the morning. The gray light sifts coldly in through the half-lowered shade in the background, while the paraffin lamp on the table casts a faintly warming glow into the room. We feel the anxiety of these people to get to their place of work in time.

This picture is absolutely true in its apprehension of the situation, and it is related to the awakening interest of that period in social questions. Besides this, it presents a technical problem which is brilliantly solved, namely, the light conflict, the artificial light in the room yielding before the coming daylight. It is particularly by the works of his youth such as this that Wentzel has assured himself a place in the development of Norwegian art.



"THE BREAKFAST TABLE," BY GUSTAV WENTZEL

# The Monetary Problem of the North

*By* WILHELM KEILHAU

## I

THE THREE Northern countries of Europe—Denmark, Norway, and Sweden—have never experienced symmetallism or bimetallism. So far as their monetary systems have been attached to a metal, it has been in the form of a pure silver standard or a pure gold standard. The transition to the gold standard took place early in the seventies of last century, so the gold krone had been the basic coin for about forty years when the World War broke out.

All over the European continent redemption was abolished in the first week of August 1914. The Northern countries were in the vanguard during that flight from the legal standard. However, not every abolition of the gold standard leads to a depreciation of currency. The war boom, particularly in shipping and the heavy industries, poured into the three countries a continuous stream of claims on foreign money; gold began to be stored up in the vaults of the central banks, and the dollar sank below par. In 1916 the banks of issue were exempted from their duty of buying all gold that was offered to them at the legal price, and thus the exchange value of the three Northern paper kroner during the remainder of the War was kept above their gold value.

When the War was ended and trade intumesced, the Northern currencies in a short time made the dangerous passage between the Capitol and the Tarpeian Rock. Now depreciation occurred. The monetary inflation that had gone on in the interior ever since 1915 became the determining factor, not only for the purchasing power of the kroner in the Northern countries themselves, as it had already been in the latter part of the War, but also for their international valuation. The Swedes, however, took up the bitter task of restoring the gold par at a comparatively early stage. The maximum depreciation, 29 per cent, had occurred in November 1920. Only two years afterwards, the old parity was reached. Denmark and Norway, on the other hand, passed through years of deep depreciation, and their whole economic life adapted itself to the new level of their currencies. This was particularly the case in Norway, where the gold value of the krone sank below 50 per cent of the old parity.

Realizing the innumerable difficulties that would inevitably arise if a deflation were to be carried through, the economic experts in

Norway, and partly in Denmark, too, demanded the stabilization of the currency at a lower gold level. The greater part of the people would have benefited by such a policy. The peasants with their long-term mortgages, the shipping and the export industries, the State and the local corporations with their heavy debts in kroner, were alike interested in stabilization; the workmen might also dread a deflation because it always gives birth to widespread unemployment. Thus, any adherent to the Marxian doctrine about the dominating influence of economic interests would have sworn that the demand for stabilization should have gained a glorious victory. But in the unconscious depths of the post-War mentality a strong feeling was prevalent: the War had been the great catastrophe, pre-War times were glittering in the light of dear memories as a paradise lost, and a longing sprang up for a complete restoration of the old monetary system. This economic romanticism proved to be stronger than any appeal to the interests of individuals or the benefit of society. On January 1, 1927, the old par was restored in Denmark, and from May 1, 1928, the Bank of Norway reassumed the converting of its notes at the gold value of the pre-War law.

## II

Besides the romantic longing for the conditions of 1913, the example shown by Great Britain had played a considerable part in the discussions concerning the proposed stabilization of the Danish and Norwegian currencies. Had the British Government listened to the warnings of the monetary reformers, such as Mr. Keynes, it may be doubted whether the romanticists could have won the battle in the North. In so far, it may be said that Mr. Winston Churchill has been the dominating personality in the monetary politics of Denmark and Norway after the War.

The consequence of this intimate connection between the evolution of the pound and the two deflated currencies in the North appeared in full light when the gold standard was given up in Great Britain on September 20, 1931. The business world at once announced that the Danish and Norwegian currencies had to follow. The question was what Sweden would do. From 1922 up to 1925 Sweden had been the only gold standard country in Europe; Swedish economic life was already wholly adapted to the level of the old par, and Swedish economists had boasted that their country was a rising Great Power in the economic field. But this glorious position was undermined. The big Kreuger concern was already involved in its last hopeless struggle for life. Every day new masses of Swedish obligations poured back from

suspicious owners in the United States and other countries. In reality it was the Swedish bank of issue which first decided to follow the British course, embracing the opportunity to escape from a position that was dangerous in itself. At the end of September 1931 the three Northern countries had abandoned the gold standard.

Since that date the Northern kroner have been sailing in the convoy of the pound. More or less, the fluctuations in sterling have spread to the krone-exchanges. In the later months of 1932 they have all been somewhat lower than the pound, but the connection has been kept up, and it is the general opinion in the three countries that the British evolution will continue to be the most influential factor in their monetary development. Accordingly, the monetary problem of the North is for the greater part dependent on the question of the British pound.

### III

The deflation exercised enormous pressure upon economic life in Denmark and Norway. Two figures may suffice to illustrate this. The Danish price level, with that of 1913 equalling 100, fell from 210 for 1925 to 130 for 1930; the Norwegian, from 251 for 1925 to 138 for 1930. On the other hand, the downward movement in world prices since 1931 has failed to influence the price level in the Northern countries. The official Norwegian wholesale index was 120 in August 1931, and 123 in October 1932; the corresponding figures for Sweden are 109 and 110, for Denmark 109 and 118.

These facts have made a strong impression upon the thinking of some Swedish economists. They have come to the conclusion that any new binding of the currency to gold would be an unfortunate measure. They advocate that the beneficial effects of the monetary policy pursued in the months after 1931 are sufficient to prove the superiority of the "managed currency." They suggest that Sweden should refrain from any return to the gold standard even if gold should be restored as the general measure of value.

Personally, I find these opinions a little premature. The experience of some few months does not count much in face of a decision intended to regulate all economic conditions through a decade of years. It must certainly be admitted that just these months have put difficult questions before the leaders of the central banks, in the North as elsewhere. But, on the other hand, the fact that the instability after 1931 has been a wholly international phenomenon has in a way facilitated the task of each individual country, for general instability does not create a peculiar pressure upon one single bank of issue, and it is easier to manage a free currency between a series of other free currencies than

to maintain its independence when all other monetary systems are based on gold. In 1926 and 1927 Norway experienced the immense difficulties encountered by a nation trying to pursue a monetary policy of its own when it is commercially surrounded by countries with stabilized currencies. In such a case the remaining free currency becomes a favorite object of that international capital which, directed by big bankers, is moving from place to place, everywhere reaping the profit of the moment, always prepared to flee again at the first signal of approaching danger. During the last quarter of 1932 even a country like Great Britain suffered gravely through the movements of that gipsy capital, and to small countries like Sweden and Norway a constant fight against speculation would mean too great economic costs, and far too dangerous risks. If a certain monetary system, e.g. the gold standard, again should be adopted by the majority of the great powers, the small nations sooner or later would be obliged to join. The permanency of free currencies in the North would only be possible if the international situation of today should happen to initiate a new era in the economic history of the world.

The idea of such a monetary liberty has a charm of its own. No wonder that it has won proselytes in many countries. For my part I should also think that it would prove to be the best solution if we had to contend with a problem of short periods only. But a monetary system should not be built for a season. Its logical purpose is to form the unalterable base of economic calculations for decades. Then it must necessarily be stabilized in one way or other, i.e. it must be fixed to a standard. Today the choice seems to be between the so-called tabular standard or index standard and a reformed gold standard.

#### IV

The idea of the tabular standard belongs to economists. More accurately described: it belongs to the circle of those modern economists who are specialists in their own science and quite ignorant in matters of law. It is of high importance to fix attention on this fact. For up to the present time no champion of the idea has been able to give the definition of an index standard in a form suitable for incorporating in a law text.

As an international system the index standard—or the price-level standard, as I prefer to call it—suffers from a peculiar weakness which is often overlooked. It would be necessary to regulate the monetary values in accordance with the movements of an international index. But this standard must be based upon a more or less comprehensive collection of national prices. If now a new international index

number deviated so much from the standard level agreed upon by international convention that it would seem necessary to alter the credit policy, this change of course could only be effected through decisions of the national central banks. But it would be nearly impossible for any international institution to give a sound judgment as to the measures to be taken in the country concerned, or to control their accomplishment. Anyone acquainted with international affairs will understand that this difficulty would necessarily be a constant source of disputes and entanglements. Accordingly, it is to be feared that the necessary steps nearly always would be taken too late—if ever.

Then a most perplexing question remains: has the idea of a constant price level any connection with real life? The fact is that the conception of the price level to most minds is wrapped up in a sort of mathematical mysticism. They forget that the price level is nothing but a calculated average of ordinary prices. But we live in a competitive society, and if the producers have for a while experienced constant prices, their competition will more and more concentrate in efforts to underbid one another and, accordingly, prices will be given a downward tendency. It is not easy to counteract such a movement, for if a discount should be able to compensate for falling prices it must be negative. Thus I fear that a price-level standard would involve a deflationary tendency.

But I admit I do not know. In fact, nobody knows. The introduction of a formal price-level standard would be a step into complete darkness.

## V

Compared with any monetary system based upon the idea of a constant price level, the gold standard has one decided advantage: we know it. We know its theory as well as its functioning in practical life; we are well acquainted with its weaknesses. The problem of giving it a suitable form is not primarily a question of knowledge but of international goodwill.

The first weakness of the gold standard is to be found in the growing scarcity of that precious metal—scarcity defined in its economic sense as signifying a quantity which is small in relation to the demand for it. But this shortness in the quantity of gold is to a certain extent an effect of regulation by national laws prescribing great reserves for the banks of issue. The Gold Delegation of the League of Nations has suggested an international agreement for the purpose of reducing the legal reserves to a reasonable percentage. The acceptance of that proposal would bring an indisputable easing of the pressure on the gold reserves.

Secondly, steps should be taken to hinder any such accumulation of gold in a few countries as was witnessed between 1928 and 1932. It should be the duty of every bank of issue to place a greater part of its free reserves at the disposal of an international institution. We have already such an institution, though in an embryonic form: the bank of International Settlements in Basle. If that bank were internationalized in the real sense of the word, removed to a commercial center, and equipped with a sufficiently large capital, it would be well fitted to administer a common gold reserve to be used for the benefit of world trade.

If these reforms were carried through, the countries now possessing a free currency ought to have no objections to a reestablishment of the gold standard, though they certainly would be wise in adopting new gold parities calculated to be in accordance with their actual economic conditions.

If this line should be chosen, the monetary problem of the Northern countries would be reduced to the choice of new gold parities. Here again the connection between the three kroner and the pound would be revealed. In all probability the stabilization level of the pound would be decisive for the Northern countries. If the pound should be stabilized in a reasonable relation to the dollar—say at a point between \$3.20 and \$4.00 per pound—there will in fact be only two alternatives for the kroner: either to maintain the old par to pound, meaning £1. = Kr.18.17, or to introduce the “shilling krone,” meaning £1. = Kr.20.00. If, on the other hand, the pound should either be brought up again to its old gold value or tumble down in a catastrophic way, the Northern countries would have to find an independent stabilization level. In this case I should think that Denmark and Norway would choose a lower gold value of the krone than Sweden. But such a development is utterly improbable, and it is of no interest to discuss it now.

## The Crisis as It Affects the Danish Farmer

*By* A. C. KAARSEN

DENMARK was so fortunate as to remain untouched by the world crisis for a comparatively long time. It is true, the depression was felt almost at once by the shipping interests, which are always sensitive to international conditions, and it was also felt to some extent in the export industries. Nevertheless there were two things that contributed to make Denmark what seemed a haven of peace in the midst of the economic Judgment Day.

In the first place, our main source of industry, our agriculture, held its own very well considering all things. The first fall in prices affected chiefly grain and fodder, while animal foods remained at the old level. Now, Danish farmers do not sell grain, but import great masses of grain and fodder in order to produce vast quantities of butter, bacon, and other animal foods. A low price of grain, therefore, is no calamity from the Danish point of view. Quite the contrary. It is the relation between the price of fodder and the price of the finished animal product that matters.

Another thing that helped to stave off the crisis was that home-building had expanded to a volume never known before. In the years during and after the War, a strong desire for better homes had been growing in the people, and at the same time the requirements had undergone a change; the large but impractical older dwellings were being replaced by small modern apartments. The result was an enormous expansion of the building industry, which not only gave employment to the building trades, but indirectly benefited the whole population. In Denmark, more than in most countries, it is the building industry that sets the pace for all other activities in the towns. It is really the key industry.

When the world crisis at last began to engulf Denmark as it had done other countries, the first indication of it was that these two basic pillars of our economic life began to crumble. Agriculture was the first to give way. Naturally, a state of things in which the prices for animal products continue high while those for fodder are low, could not go on indefinitely, and when the prices for butter and bacon began to fall, they tumbled pell-mell. Thus the income of the farmers was suddenly very much diminished, while their expenses for the things they had to buy, such as fodder and fertilizers, was only slightly reduced. What was still worse, taxes and interest on mortgages and

other debts remained the same as they had been during the era of high prices.

In the course of 1931, the crisis in Danish agriculture became acute, and this was the condition when England abandoned the gold standard in September of that year. For a few days the men responsible for the finances of the Danish nation hesitated: should we try to keep the krone at the old level, or should we follow England's example? Sweden and Norway broke the ice by abandoning the gold standard for their part, and two days later, on September 29, Denmark followed suit. Actually we had no choice. Denmark's very existence, economically speaking, was bound up with that of England because of our export of farm products, and it would have been impossible to carry on a monetary policy independent of the pound sterling. Out of our entire income from exports in 1931, amounting to 1,352,000,000 kroner, 814,000,000 kroner came from England, almost entirely for farm products. If, in addition to the price reduction, we had been obliged to take the further loss of 30 or 40 per cent consequent on the reduced value of the pound sterling, it would have meant nothing less than a catastrophe for the entire Danish farming population. By abandoning the gold standard and keeping the krone in about the same relation to the pound as formerly, we at least obtained the same amount in kroner that we could have reckoned with if England had not abandoned the gold standard. In actual practice this means, however, that all the rest of the population is subsidizing the farmers, because the reduced value of the krone automatically increases the prices we have to pay for imports.

In Denmark, as in other countries, the gold crisis and the collapse of the international credit system had a disastrous effect on the domestic money market, and this was soon apparent in the building industry. In Denmark it is the normal and customary thing for an apartment house or group of houses to be built almost entirely on borrowed capital. The banks advance cash while the work is going on, and when the building is completed the banks are paid with the aid of long-term loans from building and loan societies. These loans are given in the form of bonds which the borrower must himself sell on the exchange at current rates, and the amount that such bonds will fetch is therefore the determining factor in the satisfactory financing of construction.

In the autumn of 1931 and the spring of 1932 there was a very decided fall in the value of bonds, amounting sometimes to as much as 20 per cent. At the same time the banks, obeying the general parole for limitation of credit, were unwilling to grant loans to carry on the

work of construction. Under these conditions it became impossible to launch new projects; all that could be done was to complete the buildings that were already under way. During the year 1932 conditions on the money market improved slightly; bonds again rose in value, and credit was easier. But construction was not started again, for now the question arose as to whether people would be able to pay the high rents that the present cost of building demanded if the project was to pay. At present there is practically no building going on, and this is, directly and indirectly, the chief cause of an unemployment greater than we have ever had before. At the end of 1932 the number of unemployed reached the staggering figure of 173,000; in other words, 40 per cent of the workers.

The possibilities for raising a loan abroad were nil after the events in the autumn of 1931, and Denmark became dependent for her currency on the earnings of her shipping and export industries and other less tangible sources of income in the balance of trade. Voices were lifted in favor of limiting importation, and unfortunately the idea was noised abroad. At the very hint of regulation, the importers began to lay in larger stocks than they would normally have done, and the situation grew worse than it had needed to be. Thus the game was on.

On February 1, 1932, the regulation went into effect. Every import into the country had to have a special permit, issued nominally by the National Bank which regulates the currency, but actually of course by the government. The permit was given for a certain number of months, and the amount was contingent in part on the value of business normally done by the individual importer who applied for it, and partly on whether or not the goods in question were necessities.

This arrangement—the value of which was problematical at best, inasmuch as the monetary situation could probably have been more effectively regulated by a credit policy—roused a great deal of dissatisfaction. Nevertheless it was continued until the end of 1932, when the dissolution of the Folkething took place, followed by an election. A modified regulation was then fixed for 1933, permitting some goods, amounting perhaps to a third of the normal importation, to be brought in without special permits, while others are still subject to the control of the authorities. This new regulation differs from the old one in that it purports to serve a definite trade policy by favoring importation from the countries that are our customers.

Even in 1932 this redistribution of our imports was in full swing due to a shifting in the balance of our exports. Formerly, although England was far and away our best customer, Germany also bought

large amounts of farm products from us. In 1929 Denmark exported 248,000,000 kilograms of bacon, almost entirely to England; 159,000,000 kilograms of butter, 108,000,000 of which went to England and 43,000,000 to Germany; and 39,000,000 score eggs, 30,500,000 to England, and 8,500,000 to Germany. Out of a total export of cattle on the hoof, amounting to 280,000 head, Germany took 270,000.

It will be seen from these figures that Germany was a very important customer, and when Germany, partly to protect her own agriculture, and partly for lack of currency, began to limit importation, the effect on Danish prices was disastrous. In 1932, out of a total butter export of 158,000,000 kilograms, we could dispose of only 13,500,000 to Germany. Consequently we had to send 129,000,000 kilograms to England, with the result that the market was glutted. An even harder blow was dealt our farmers when Germany limited her purchase of cattle on the hoof to 75,000, and in consequence prices sank to a ridiculously low level. The live cattle sold abroad are chiefly cows that no longer give enough milk to make them profitable for dairying; they must therefore be considered a kind of by-product of the dairy industry, and the money received for them is counted on to allow the dairies to balance their budget.

Germany's action in closing her doors to Danish farm products created much bitterness in Denmark, especially in view of the fact that Denmark has always been a liberal buyer of German manufactured goods. As the same time influential men in England began to raise a vigorous agitation against Denmark for not buying a sufficient amount of English goods to balance our enormous export to England. These factors coming together caused the Danish business interests to formulate a definite policy seeking to substitute English importations for German. This has been effected to a very considerable extent, although Germany still leads. In the eleven months from January to November 1931 Germany supplied 34.2 per cent of Denmark's total imports, England only 14.9 per cent. In the corresponding period of 1932 the balance was shifted in England's favor so that 26.4 per cent came from Germany and 21.9 per cent from England.

This vigorous trade policy did lead to certain concessions from Germany in the form of more favorable conditions for our butter export. On the other hand, it cannot be said that our efforts to meet the wishes of England have resulted in more favorable conditions than we should otherwise have had. Strive as we may, our imports from England will never equal our exports to that country. At present the relation is about as one to three. We shall always buy less than we sell, and so long

as the foolish agitation for perfect equality in trade is maintained, we shall always be blamed for not doing our duty. Moreover, it has been made evident that English trade policies are determined without any consideration of Denmark's welfare. In spite of our efforts to buy British, we have not received any more favorable treatment than have the other exporters of food products, such as Holland, Poland, and the Baltic States.

The Ottawa agreement, which fixed a very high duty on butter and eggs with preferential treatment for the Dominions, was a hard blow to the Danish farmers, because the duty under the difficult marketing conditions must be paid chiefly by the consumers. Before the farmers had recovered from this blow, the fiat went forth last November that the importation of bacon into England must be cut 20 per cent. No time was given the producers of bacon to adjust themselves to this regulation. Now, as a matter of fact, a census of Danish hogs showed that there was already a tendency to limit the output, but it was not possible to bring it down to the amount England permitted us to deliver—100,000 hogs per week—before well into the spring of 1933. The result was that, at the beginning of the New Year, there was such a superabundance of bacon in Denmark that the dealers were at their wit's end.

When Danish agriculture, in spite of the smallness of the country, has attained a world reputation, the reason, as everybody knows, is the high quality and the uniformity of its products. The cooperative societies have industrialized farming; they have made the agriculture of the entire country a single great mechanism working along absolutely definite lines for mass production. Thereby Denmark's foreign trade has grown to a volume greater in proportion to its population than that of any other country. In the year 1931 the foreign trade per person in Denmark was to a value of 700 gold kroner; that of Holland and Belgium equalled 600 kroner; that of England, 450 kroner; and that of the United States, 135 kroner. In normal times this tremendous foreign trade is an excellent source of income, but now that all the nations are bitten by the idea of self-help, it has become the vulnerable spot in our economy. Not only are the nations building walls against our products, but the price level for our exports is 16 per cent lower than it was before the War, while that of our imports is 20 per cent higher.

The situation is all the more crucial because Danish agriculture is to a great extent built up with borrowed capital. The Danish farmer does not own more than on an average one-fourth of his property. The

rest is in permanent mortgages which may pass from one owner to another with the sale of the farm, or in loose debts. It will readily be seen that the debts contracted under quite different price conditions must be very oppressive now that farming has really become a losing proposition.

The reaction from this dilemma has been a strong radical movement in the farming districts. The Danish farmer has always been the staunchest supporter of Liberalism with its demand for individual liberty and nothing but liberty. But now, that the shoe pinches himself, he has begun to demand that the State should subsidize agriculture in one form or another. These demands are in poor accord with his former protestations. Without attempting to prophesy too much from present signs, we may venture a prediction that, whatever the outcome of the crisis, it will mean a long step toward the realization of the Socialistic theories of national regulation of production, because the ancient bulwark against these theories—the Danish farming population—has broken down.



NIELS R. FINSEN  
1860-1904

## Niels Finsen In Memoriam

*By* SVEND LOMHOLT

**I**N AUGUST 1932 the attention of the medical world was directed towards Copenhagen. Here a large band of research workers from thirty different countries assembled for a week to discuss the importance of light and light treatment in the art of healing. Some three hundred physicians had accepted the invitation of their Danish colleagues to come together in Niels Finsen's native land and compare notes on the great and significant problems which he brought forward. More than one hundred fifty papers were read, and they showed how

extensive is the interest in and the research relating to light in the various countries at the present time. Indeed the study in this field includes such weighty problems as tuberculosis, child nutrition, and, not least important, social hygiene. All these subjects were discussed from every angle, and the papers continually referred back to Niels Finsen himself, the discoverer of light treatment. It was particularly fitting that this meeting should be held in Denmark now, as it was just thirty years since Niels Finsen's curative work began, in 1902.

Niels Finsen was born on December 15, 1860, at Thorshavn in the Faroe Islands, the son of Sheriff Hannes Finsen. On his father's side he came of an old Icelandic family, and the latter half of his school days he spent in Iceland at the home of his father's relations in Reykjavik.

He died on September 24, 1904, only forty-three years of age. A brief but full career was thus brought to a close—briefer even than at first appears. Difficult school years and an increasing physical weakness that retarded the completion of his medical course resulted in his not taking his degree until he was twenty-nine. This meant that his actual work as a physician covered only fourteen years. Nevertheless in the course of these fourteen short years he began and carried through that work on the effect of light on living organisms and its use in therapy, which gave him a reputation all over the world exceeding that held by any other Danish physician. Wherever one travels abroad one discovers with delight that his name is known to practically all medical men, and that they know that to him belongs the merit of having introduced light therapy. It was therefore with full justice that the Nobel Committee of Sweden chose Finsen as the second in order, next after Röntgen, to receive the distinction of the Nobel Prize in medicine.

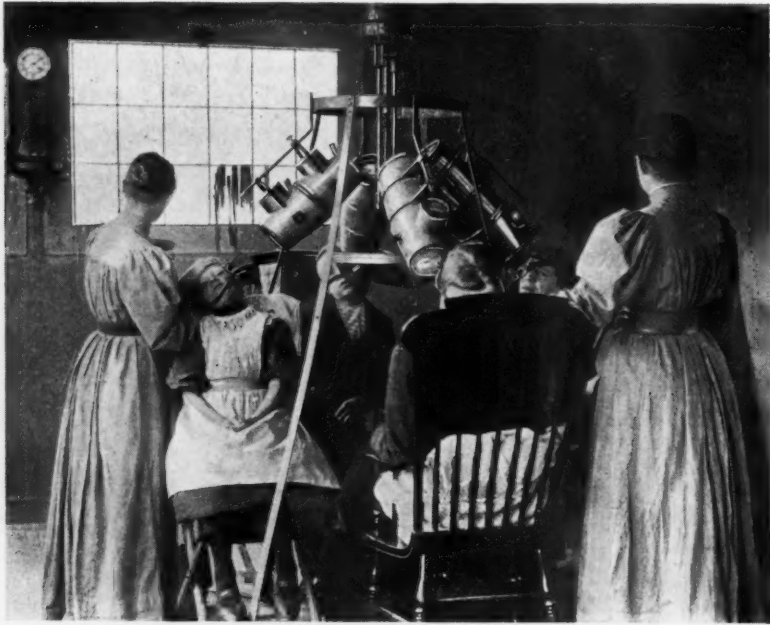
He unquestionably has the honor of being the first to have seen the enormous importance of light for the welfare of the human organism, of having investigated thoroughly the dependence of the biological effect on the various wave lengths of the light rays, especially the great importance of the ultraviolet rays, and of having drawn up lines which still hold good for the way in which these observations may be employed in the service of the healing art, partly by universal irradiation, partly in the form of the light bath, and partly by local treatment with concentrated light.

Previously the favorable biological effect of light had been attributed chiefly to its power of heating. As to the action of the ultraviolet rays of light, only its irritative effect on the skin was known, as, for example, the light-rash as it is seen in the spring when the sun's rays suddenly strike the skin, pale and colorless after the winter, and produce a

severe reddening and swelling, and sometimes even blister formations. This effect is due to the ultraviolet rays of light. Observations on the irritative action of short-waved rays of light had suggested to Finsen the possibility that certain inflammatory skin lesions of other origin might be mitigated if these rays were cut out. He advanced the proposition that smallpox patients, with marked inflammation of the skin, were to be spared this irritation from the short-waved rays by the exclusive admission of the long-waved red rays through red curtains and blinds, red lamp chimneys and shades, etc. Clinical findings proved this idea to be right. The skin eruption of smallpox turned out to be far less violent and the disfiguring scars less conspicuous when the patients were placed in a "Finsen red room." In fact the measure is now adopted in most countries.

Finsen soon extended his studies on the biological action of light through a large number of simple but convincing experiments on salamander eggs and larvae, tadpoles, angleworms, and butterflies, demonstrating that the rays of light—especially the short-waved ones—possess, besides the irritative effect, also an inciting, most valuable and favorable, stimulating effect on the living organism. Moreover, Finsen elaborated these observations, and he employed his findings in practical healing. It should be noted particularly that he was the first to use the sun bath in the treatment of tuberculosis, namely, in the summer of 1902 at the newly established sanatorium for pulmonary tuberculosis at Vejlefjord. He succeeded here, in cooperation with Professor Sangmann, in curing with a month's treatment the first case of surgical tuberculosis. In the more serious pulmonary tuberculosis the effect of sun baths was unfortunately less obvious, but the use of sun baths has since become extremely important abroad, especially in Switzerland and the high Alpine sanatoriums such as Bernhard and Rollier. It was Finsen who led the movement.

Unhappily, Finsen died shortly after this, in 1904. It was therefore reserved for his successor, A. Reyn, to take up his idea again some years later. Instead of the sun, however, artificial sources of light (Finsen's carbon arc lamp bath) had to be used, since the sun here in our country is such an unreliable factor. This treatment with carbon arc lamp came to have an unsuspected importance for the cure of surgical tuberculosis—tuberculosis of the bones, joints, and glands—a form of disease which chiefly attacks and makes invalids of children and very young people. Thanks to the systematic work which has proceeded from the Finsen Institute, it is now a rare thing to see children and young people who are invalids as a result of these tuberculosis complaints. At a still earlier point he had already constructed the

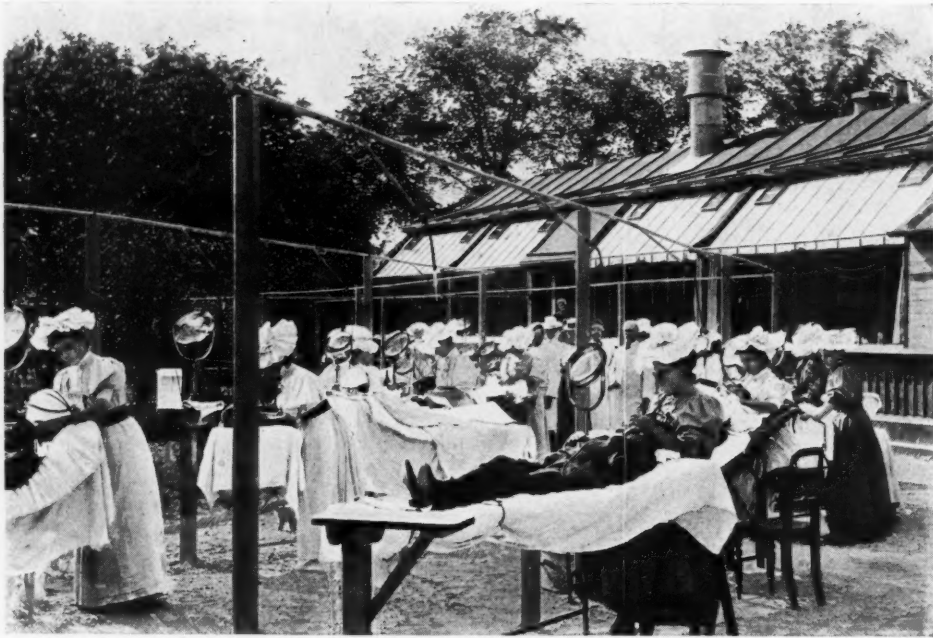


FINSEN LIGHT TREATMENT OF LUPUS VULGARIS, 1897

"Finsen carbon arc light bath," which he used with favorable results in heart diseases and other disorders.

#### Finsen's Treatment of Lupus

In speaking of Finsen's light treatment, it is always one definite treatment that one thinks of in particular, namely, that for lupus. This absorbed Finsen to a degree that nothing else did, and he devoted the main part of his powers to its development. He was eminently successful. The Finsen light treatment is still the surest, the most economical, and in every respect the best treatment for this serious malady which chiefly attacks children and young people, and embitters their existence, because it usually settles in the face and frequently disfigures it in a terrible way. Before Finsen the only treatments known were cauterization and operation. The results of these methods were often very disfiguring and not as a rule very lasting. One can understand how strong was Finsen's desire to come to the aid of these unfortunate patients. With the strangely acute perceptive instinct of genius, he set in at exactly the right point with his new treatment when he concentrated on *Lupus vulgaris*. This disease is caused by a peculiarly insidious tubercular infection of the skin, in certain respects mild, but difficult to influence, which produces characteristic nodules, and when these break, deep sores that destroy parts of the face. Sometimes it



TREATMENT OF LUPUS VULGARIS WITH SUNLIGHT, 1897

seems to cure itself, in which case it often leaves disfiguring scars. But frequently the whole fleshy part of the nose is lost. It was Finsen's hope by immediate irradiation with strongly concentrated, short-waved, ultraviolet light to kill the tubercular bacilli in the skin directly and thus restore health to the tissues. Later investigations demonstrated that Finsen's original idea was not tenable, that it was not possible to kill the tubercular bacilli directly. They had too much resistance. But, what in practice amounted to the same thing, the Finsen light produced a strong inflammation deep in the skin, and when this disappeared in the course of two or three weeks, the tubercular inflammation had usually disappeared also. For this result, protracted irradiations of two hours at a time on spots about two centimeters in size were required. The treatment was thus rather laborious. In consideration of the serious character of the disease, however, the sacrifice was gladly made, especially since the result was almost always the achievement of a surprisingly inconspicuous white, soft scar, not disfiguring and often scarcely visible. It is no exaggeration to say that the introduction of Finsen's method was felt as an extraordinary relief and liberation throughout all countries where hitherto the fight against this terrible disease had been waged in vain.

Space does not permit us to go into the enormous work that was required to develop the correct technique and to construct instruments



THE CLINIC FOR INTERNAL DISEASES IN THE FINSEN LIGHT INSTITUTE IN COPENHAGEN

for this treatment. Finsen solved this problem to perfection in consideration of the technical means which were then at his disposal. In the course of four years Finsen succeeded in creating his final model with which it has been possible to cure about 80 per cent of all the lupus cases in Denmark.

All apparatuses which Finsen made in a rapid series of experiments bear a peculiar stamp of simplicity and clearness, and by their primitive form stand out startlingly from the method of procedure and form of expression which has become traditional within the field of medical and physiological science. In his works the problems are found stated in quite elementary form with a clear eye for what is the crux of the matter and what are the subsidiary points. In his answers he proceeds in the same direct manner, employing the simplest and most everyday objects for experiments and set-ups: a cigar-box, a row of colored pieces of glass, etc.

In drawing up the results of the experiment only main lines are sought. Only large issues are taken into account, and these are themselves tested with the greatest sobriety and caution. Often only a conditional judgment is given in view of the multiplicity of detail where many other men would have allowed themselves to be led, not

merely to fix a defensible milepost, but to go further out into the unbounded expanses of speculation. One finds nothing of this in Finsen. Consequently the facts stated and accepted by him still stand fast today and form the enduring foundation for all our work in light.

If Finsen was singularly happy in his discovery of the treasures of light, until then so wonderfully concealed, and in rendering an account of its value and proper employment and thus carrying out a scientific

feat which was outstanding both by its originality and its extent, he was no less favored of fortune in other spheres. He possessed a quite unusual technical skill and genius, which was of great help to him in the solution of the many problems in the construction of his apparatuses. Although Finsen was neither a physicist nor a mathematician, his well known "telescope construction" was classic in its simplicity and its perfection. Until a few years ago all attempts at improvement failed. Only in the most recent times does the technical development in various fields seem to make possible an improvement. By making the irradiation twice as intensive, the time of irradiation can be shortened by half, thus making the application considerably easier.

Finsen made his first primitive experiment with the treatment of lupus on an engineer who had a lupus lesion of eight years' standing on the cheek, which had been treated previously in many different ways—all of no avail. During the period from November 1895 to March 1896 this patient was treated daily with light from a 20-amperes carbon arc lamp, condensed by means of an extremely simple apparatus of two convergent lenses. The entire area of lupus was cured, with the exception of a pea-sized spot which required a little after-treatment before it disappeared completely.

The achievements through which the name of Niels Finsen is written



FINSEN LIGHT TREATMENT OF LUPUS VULGARIS, 1922

forever in the annals of medicine may then be summed up as follows: Unaided, on naked ground, he constructed a solid scientific foundation for the therapeutical use of light, both in local and in universal irradiation. On this basis he created a special method for treating skin tuberculosis, which method, up to the present, has proved far superior to all other forms of treatment, besides being most serviceable in the handling of many other diseases. He accomplished all this beneficial creative work within a few years.

The figure of Finsen therefore occupies a unique position within the Danish medical profession. Anyone who has not himself met him will have this impression confirmed by all those who knew him, but especially by those who were most intimate with him personally. All concede him a special position. This is due not only, perhaps not even chiefly, to his clear-sightedness and his scientific achievement but fully as much to his rare personal qualities: the patience and perseverance with which he bore the severe heart disease which afflicted him from the earliest years of his youth, the tenacity of purpose with which he concentrated his scant strength upon the task which he felt had become his life-work, his unpretentiousness and kindness towards all those he worked for and with. Small and great alike, they all loved him. A few years ago I met an English nurse whom he had cured in 1899 of a large lupus vulgaris in the face. She recalled him with these striking words: "He was not only *an* ideal man—he was *the* ideal man."

It grieved Finsen that his life must be so short, although he had been fully aware of this already at a very early stage in his career. His untimely death was a great loss in the scientific development of light research. If he had lived he might perhaps have been able to keep down the all too luxuriant weeds which now grow far and wide in the fields he ploughed and which in many places almost seem to be in the process of overrunning the seed he sowed and smothering the work he succeeded in carrying out.

Nevertheless, he was permitted to see his work succeed and to reap recognition. His Institute grew and received support and testimonials of sympathy and recognition in rich measure both at home and from abroad. It now forms a great center with some three hundred beds and large outpatient departments, together with installations for all possible forms of light therapy and other irradiation therapy.

Personally he received in quick succession one mark of distinction after the other—the title of professor, the gold medal of merit, and finally, shortly before his death, the Nobel Prize. Half of this award he gave to his beloved Institute, although he was without private means

and knew that his death was approaching with rapid strides, and would leave his family without a provider.

As was to be expected, he met with a great deal of opposition on his way, especially in the beginning. But when one looks back now, one feels that after all he sailed before a favorable breeze. To how many is it given to see the work of their manhood blossom forth to such an extent in less than half a score years, admired and acknowledged on all sides, and themselves attain at an early age the greatest scientific distinction which the present day knows!

His splendid achievement, his fine figure and personality, will always stand out in pure and sharply etched lines in the annals of the Danish medical profession, to honor and to imitate.



THE FINSEN MEMORIAL AT THE LIGHT INSTITUTE IN COPENHAGEN, SCULPTURED BY VIGGO JARL IN 1910



*Painting by V. Neiiendam*

BLICHER OUT HUNTING WITH HIS DOG

## Steen Steensen Blicher

*From the Danish of JOHANNES V. JENSEN*

*Translated by R. P. KEIGWIN*

*WITH smoke and dust the wheel of time goes 'round  
Nigh hundred years he's lain beneath the ground,  
that good old poet-priest, and hunter, too,  
who lived on Jutland soil his whole life through.  
In him the silent, secret moorland spoke—  
soul of their souls, like few, to Jutland folk.*

*Those somber plains that 'neath the vaulted sky  
wrapped, like a face, in meditation lie—  
Eternity, held prisoner for a day—  
here Blicher and his dog once used to stray.  
When down the shorn horizon the sun falls,  
still in the evening wind his spirit calls.*

*And on the heath his mind is ever nigh;  
a solemn, wistful yearning you descry,  
as though departed kin had left you heir  
to all their sorrows, dimly heaping there.  
The old, now dumb, have laid aside their staves,  
but still they snatch at life from out their graves.*

*He made his kindred's many cares his own  
and took, like them, this fleeting life on loan.  
Mid thorns and nettles he grew tired and ill,  
and Need's hard knuckles pommelled him at will.  
Fret and perfidious stab his constant dole. . . .  
But thanks for rhythmic form and soaring soul!*

*For, harsh maybe, yet noble was his song,  
tones bubbling up from bedrock, deep and long.  
In him was keyed to strike the clock one hears—  
Nature—not more than once a hundred years.  
While others brayed about the North's rebirth,  
he dug an ancient farmer from the earth.*

*Melodious leapt from out his hunter mind  
a flute-like music wayward as the wind.  
A lonely note, the plover's tundra cry,  
called up Earth's ages to his inward eye.  
And none like him saw Heaven in spring revealed,  
when the lark climbed above the new-thawed field.*

*He welcomed rain and sun. He trod the earth.  
"Our fathers' trail," for him, were words of worth.  
He raised up treasure where men scorned to look.  
He wrote our Jutland ways in Denmark's book.  
Moulded in Jutland's mould, and battered long,  
that heart of oak kept Denmark's heritage strong.*

*With memories teeming goes the Jutland wind.  
Here steel was laid in Jakob Knudsen's mind.  
Here Thöger Larsen's starry glances shone,  
and, born to sing, Aakjær has come and gone.  
A sigh they send, that dies away in space . . .  
and muted as before is heaven's face.*

# CURRENT EVENTS



## U · S · A ·

¶ The conference between Sir Donald Lindsay, the British Ambassador, and President-elect Roosevelt, at Warm Springs, Georgia, on the debt owed the United States, leads to the assumption that the question of a satisfactory settlement will be among the first matters of importance to come before the new Democratic administration. In the British note accepting Mr. Roosevelt's invitation for a representative of that government to come to Washington for a discussion of the subject as soon as possible after March 4, it is affirmed that "it will be recognized that decisions on matters which constitute the subject of the approaching World Economic Conference, and which affect other States, cannot be reached before discussions take place at that conference between all the States represented there."

¶ With Missouri the thirty-sixth State necessary to ratify the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" sessions of Congress pass into history, as the terms of the President and Vice-President will in the future end on the twentieth day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the third day of January. Section 3 of the Amendment reads that "the Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meetings shall begin at noon on the third day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." ¶ One of the last acts of the Hoover administration with regard to foreign affairs was Secretary of State Stimson's appeal to Peru to abide by the commitments undertaken by that nation in the Pact of Paris in connection with the Leticia dispute with Colombia. The Brazilian formula for peace between Colombia and Peru, which was supported by the United States some time ago, was

once more endorsed by Secretary Stimson in his note as offering an equitable solution. ¶ On February 1, President Hoover voiced his disappointment with the House of Representatives for what he declared to be substantial increases, rather than cuts, in his executive budget. The seven supply bills on which the House has acted show total increases of \$163,319,642 over the President's recommendations. Replying to the White House statement, which went into details regarding the increases, Representative Henry T. Rainey, Democratic floor leader, declared that he could not understand how the President had arrived at the figures adduced in support of his statement. Other Democratic leaders declared that the executive budget estimates to which Mr. Hoover referred were based on legislative changes in existing laws which must be made outside of action on the appropriation bills themselves. ¶ On January 25, the Senate by a vote of 59 to 9 passed the Glass banking reform bill, the major provisions of which are: keeping the Federal Reserve credits out of speculative channels; divorcement of security affiliates from national banks within five years' time; permitting branch banking by national banks under the laws of States in which the banks operate; setting up a liquidating corporation to expedite winding up of affairs of closed banks; giving the Federal Reserve Board authority to remove officers and directors of member banks found to be engaging in unsound practices; to provide for licensing holding companies for bank stocks and limiting their voting power. ¶ In an interview before leaving for Europe, George W. Wickersham, who was chairman of President Hoover's National Commission on Law Observation and Enforcement, stated as follows: "I believe it is absolutely essential that modification [of the Prohibition Amendment] shall include hard

Spirits as well as light wines and beer. I think that modification of the entire law would be best. But I think that the national government must maintain control, or we shall go back to the old evils brought about through prohibition." Mr. Wickersham insisted that the nation must guard against a return of the saloon. ¶ During the first six months of its existence, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation advanced \$1,171,983,307 to financial institutions and railroads affected by the depression. Banks and railroads were the principal beneficiaries. The Central Republic Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, of which General Charles G. Dawes is an official and former president, receives about \$80,000,000. The special report was given to Congress after the House had adopted a resolution to make the figures public over the protest of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The statement accompanying the report showed that nearly all the loans to banks had been made to insure liquidity against unusual demands of depositors.



## NORWAY

¶ Disregarding the modern method of exploring Polar wastes by aeroplane and airship, Captain Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen, the Norwegian explorer, has set out on an Antarctic expedition which will be carried out with the aid of that veteran of a hundred hardy dashes into the unknown white spaces, the Polar dog. Entrusting their lives to the nimble feet and husky bodies of forty Greenland dogs, Captain Riiser-Larsen and his two companions, Hallvard Devold and Olav Kjelbotn, expect to journey by sledge along the coast of the Antarctic, following the shore of the Weddell Sea, exploring the unknown regions on the western shore of that sea, and finishing up in the Bay of Hope in Louis Philippe Land, whence they hope to get passage back to Europe next season on a whale boat. The three men left Norway in January. They will disembark



CAPTAIN RIISER-LARSEN

in Enderby Land, or in Queen Maud's Land in the Antarctic. If ice conditions permit, Captain Riiser-Larsen and his men will immediately start traveling westward on the seacoast. Their first object is to explore the gap between Queen Maud's Land and Princess Ragnhild's Land; this done, they will proceed through the stretch of land between the latter and Crown Princess Märtha's Land. This will conclude the first part of their journey. The great problem which then confronts the tiny expedition is the old question whether there is an opening between the Weddell Sea and the Ross Sea. Captain Riiser-Larsen, therefore, intends to proceed to the southernmost end of the Ross Sea and go northwards along the coast to Hearst Land. As no ship can approach this land, the three men will travel on to Louis Philippe Land, where they hope to be fetched off from Hope Bay. The total distance of travel will be at least 3,500 miles. Riiser-Larsen's two companions are well suited for the Antarctic dash. Hallvard Devold, who will be the radio

operator, has wintered at Svalbard, Jan Mayn, and, the last three years, in Eirik Raude's Land on the southeastern coast of Greenland. Olav Kjelbotn is a well known ski expert, and has wintered two years in Eirik Raude's Land. The dogs will be divided into three teams, pulling an equal number of sledges. On each sledge a boat will be carried; two of the boats are made of duraluminum, the third boat of canvas. Two tents constitute an important part of the equipment, being specially constructed for Arctic weather. As to food, the expedition carries a good supply of pemmican, oatmeal crackers, and chocolate. The question of vitamins has been solved by bringing along a sufficient supply of vitamin C prepared for Captain Riiser-Larsen by the discoverer, Mr. Ottar Rygh of Oslo. The journey is expected to be a severe strain on the members, as they will have to winter in these cold regions. All three are hardy men, however, who are used to roughing it. ¶ The Eighty-second Ordinary Storting was officially opened in the second week of January by King Haakon VII. The proposed budget for 1933-34 has been made up with a total balance of 374,400,000 kroner. The Hundseid Government stated that its task in planning the budget for the coming fiscal year had been an exceedingly difficult one. Several items of revenue recorded a marked decline, particularly the customs receipts and income derived from government concerns. On the other hand, large new items of expenditure had to be covered, such as making provision for the deficit in the budget for 1931-32, increased expenditure on account of the depreciation of the krone, and larger payments on the national debt, which is to be reduced by 55,100,000 kroner. Among the appropriations proposed by the Government is a yearly grant of \$3,000 towards the support of a Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce in New York. Owing to financial considerations, the Government has proposed to curtail the expenditures

of the Army and Navy. A committee will be appointed to consider the question of the economic and professional organizations, and is expected to submit a bill for the purpose of establishing their position in the State by legislation. This committee will also consider the question of the rights and duties of employers and wage-earners, and the position of their unions in the community. ¶ The voyage of the full-rigged training ship *Sörlandet* to the World's Fair at Chicago this summer has been assured, the 50,000 kroner deemed necessary to finance the trip having been contributed by individuals and firms. The *Sörlandet* is expected to leave Norway on or about May 1; the ship will proceed to Montreal, whence it will go on to Chicago via the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. ¶ The wave of influenza which has swept a great part of Europe reached Norway in the latter part of January. Numerous cases have been reported, but it seems that the epidemic is of a much milder nature than the terrible one of 1919. Among the early sufferers was former Prime Minister Johan Ludvig Mowinckel. In some of the towns the schools were closed. ¶ The ice-skating tournament between the United States and Norway, which was held at Oslo in the last days of January, brought victory to the Norwegian team, the five Norwegian skaters defeating the five American boys by 57½ points to 86½ (points being scored 1 for first place, 2 for second, etc.). Eddie Schroeder of Chicago captured the 5,000- and 10,000-meter races, and Hans Engnestangen of Norway was victorious in the 500- and 1,500-meter events. The American skaters have been the guests of the Norwegian Skating Association; they spent some time at Lillehammer, training for the races.



## DENMARK

¶ For the purpose of meeting the most serious crisis in the history of Danish agriculture, leaders of the various farm organi-

zations met in Copenhagen with representatives of the Government and placed before them, for presentation to the Rigsdag, a number of suggestions which were expected in some degree to alleviate the situation. Among these suggestions were a reduction in interest on loans; extension of credits; reduction of taxes on farm properties; transfer of municipal expenditures of a certain kind to the State; an increase in the price of farm products. One difficulty confronting the Social-Democratic Government in its negotiations with the agricultural leaders was the necessity of first arriving at an understanding with the opposition parties, in particular the Conservatives. ¶ In a conference between Premier Stauning and the Conservative leader, J. Christmas Möller, an agreement was reached to the effect that political differences should be put aside in order to help the country's most important sources of income, the dairy and bacon industries, to weather the economic crisis. The Conservatives stressed the necessity of establishing minimum prices for bacon, beef, butter, and eggs in the home market. The English restrictions with regard to imports of Danish farm products would seriously affect exports, and for this reason it was proposed to cut down production, especially the raising of hogs. ¶ In the address presented to the Government, and signed by Jens Holdgaard and H. Hauch for the united agricultural societies, it was proposed that at least 40,000,000 kroner in tax impositions should be transferred from the farm localities to the State. The farm interests registered their opposition to any currency inflation, but insisted that the purchase price of the krone should be stabilized. ¶ In the Rigsdag the financial status of the engineering firm of Burmeister & Wain came in for debate, in which Minister of Commerce Hauge took a leading part. Although the firm is a private enterprise, its importance to Denmark's economic position was recognized as entitling the

company to whatever assistance the Government could give it in its present difficulties. While Madsen-Mygdal, speaking for the Left party, was willing to admit that Burmeister & Wain had done much to further Denmark's industrial standing in the world, he at the same time warned the Government against taking too many other industrial concerns under its wings in view of the effect on the country's finances. ¶ *Berlingske Tidende* published an interview which its London correspondent, K. Bøgholm, had with Lord Hailsham, the British Minister of War. The Minister explained in detail the purpose of the Ottawa Conference, which in certain quarters has been spoken of as antagonistic to other nations. "It was just a question of putting our own house in order," Lord Hailsham is quoted as saying. "Ottawa was a necessity for us. The policies that the National Government has instituted is a reconstruction policy without which England would have become bankrupt. As it concerns Denmark, I have always been in favor of complete agreement with your country, and as for disarmament, if one country is alone in disarming, it makes a cripple of itself." ¶ In connection with Denmark's participation in the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago this summer, it is definitely established that Premier Stauning will make it the occasion for his long-promised visit to the United States. Denmark will have no separate building at the exposition, but will be represented in the Museum for Industry and Science with an exhibit including such scientific treasures as the sextant once owned by Tycho Brahe, Ørsted's electromagnet, models representative of the inventions by Valdemar Poulsen, and Ole Römer, together with Professor Niels Bohr's historical apparatus for the atom researches. The Danish government is furnishing 50,000 kroner for the purpose of the exhibit. Premier Stauning is expected to make the principal speech on Denmark Day, June 21.



## SWEDEN

¶ In order to qualify as an efficient king in a democratic age, Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden, oldest son of the Crown Prince and therefore heir apparent to the throne, has begun to work in the Stockholm Mortgage Bank as a student clerk. Later he will spend similar periods in Svenska Handelsbanken and the Enskilda Bank, which represents the powerful Wallenberg interests. At the same time he will attend lectures on economic topics at the Stockholm College of Commerce. Next winter he is scheduled to make first-hand studies of Sweden's principal industries, particularly the export of iron and forestry products. Since his marriage last fall to Princess Sibylla of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, he has his own household at the suburban château of Haga. The Prince has already had a more thorough military education than any previous heir to the Swedish throne. After graduating from the Karlberg Military Academy, Sweden's West Point, he attended lectures last winter at the War College in Stockholm, where members of the General Staff get their advance training. He has also attended courses in government and economics at the University of Uppsala, where his father and grandfather studied before him. In this careful preparation for the throne the Prince follows in the footsteps of his father, Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf. For several years the latter has spent much time in each of the various administrative branches of the Swedish government and is, in fact, so well conversant with the routine that he could fill practically any cabinet post at a moment's notice. ¶ By cutting appropriations for nearly every department, except unemployment relief, and increasing taxes in almost every direction, the new Swedish budget, proposed by the Social-Democratic Government, was balanced. It is the first Swedish budget to exceed a billion kronor. Even the allowances for the

royal family and the maintenance of the court and the palaces were slightly reduced and the requests for an extra 100,000 kronor to the newly married heir-apparent, Prince Gustaf Adolf, was refused. He and Princess Sibylla will therefore have to get along on his bachelor allowance of 90,000 kronor. The largest cut was that in the preparation for the national defense, of about 20,000,000 kronor. ¶ The crux of the Government's program was increased aid to the jobless through public works of various kinds. The increase in the budget for the Social Service Department was nearly 60,000,000 kronor. There were also appropriations under other heads for the continued electrification of railroads, drainage of swamps, improved forestry, and new automatic telephone centrals. New hospitals and insane asylums at public expense were also provided for in order to add to the opportunities for work. The new taxes are chiefly on incomes, inheritance and gifts, liquor, tobacco, and beer, while coffee is not touched. ¶ Over one thousand kilometers of new roads at a cost of about 30,000,000 kronor, as well as canals, aviation fields, and other large and useful Swedish public works are being built by an army of 15,100 unemployed, according to a statement by Major G. Jonson, head of the public works section of the Swedish State Unemployment Relief Commission. The work is being performed in 190 different localities in various parts of the country. In the province of Småland large drainage work has been carried on for a number of years whereby vast stretches of land have been changed from marshes into productive forest tracts. A series of landing fields for cross-country aviation were also constructed by the State Unemployment Relief Commission, and new forest roads, water-power stations, and railway lines also form part of this work. The wages paid the workmen vary according to local conditions, but are only from 8 to 23 per cent below those paid to regular workmen

in the same districts. ¶ The nation-wide government inventory or census of Sweden's forest supply is completed after eight years of incessant work and at a total cost of 1,400,000 kronor. The almost gigantic proportions of this undertaking are illustrated by the report of the National Forest Inventory Commission. The census was made by means of examining all trees within parallel forest belts ten meters wide and drawn at certain fixed intervals. The combined length of the lines thus covered by the tree checkers is about 52,000 kilometers, or more than one and a quarter times around the world, and the number of tree trunks marked and examined amount to more than 12,000,000. The result of the inventory as a whole was most gratifying, in so far as it showed not only the forest wealth of the country but also indicated that the regrowth was considerably greater than what had been generally anticipated. Sweden's total forest area is about 23,181,000 hectares, or approximately 58,000,000 acres, and the total amount of wood is 1,417,000,000 cubic meters. With the low lumber prices prevailing today, the present value of the wood contained in Sweden's forests is estimated to be at least 1,200,000,000 kronor. A remarkable fact is the high age of the trees. Thus in Lapland 32 per cent of the trees were found to be over 160 years and 45 per cent over 120 years old. ¶ Gothenburg has opened a large and imposing Marine Museum. It contains many unique collections of ancient and modern ship models. Close by the building is a tall campanile, or bell tower, erected to commemorate the marine victims of the World War. ¶ A bridge six kilometers long is projected to connect the Swedish mainland with the island of Öland, in the Baltic Sea. On Öland lies Soliden, the summer home of the late Queen Victoria of Sweden. In her honor Dr. Axel Munthe, author of *The Story of San Michele*, has established a bird sanctuary on Öland.

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

### A Gift to the John Morton Museum

Dr. Amandus Johnson announces that the John Morton Memorial Museum has received a magnificent gift from a recently deceased citizen of Philadelphia, Dr. John Frederick Lewis. The most notable part of the donation is a collection of art, including two self-portraits by Ulric Wertmüller, a painting by Gustaf Hesselius, entitled "The Holy Family," Houdon's bust of Washington, Mierevelt's famous portrait of Gustavus Adolphus, and other things of Swedish or American significance. There is also a large collection of Indian relics from New Sweden.

Dr. Lewis was president of the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts and of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He was not himself of Swedish descent, and his appreciation of the Swedish contribution to Pennsylvania is therefore the more gratifying to those who have labored to create the John Morton Museum.

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### The "Gjöa" Restored

When Roald Amundsen in the *Gjöa* completed the Northwest Passage, the end of the voyage was San Francisco. When the tiny little green-painted sloop sailed in on the blue waters of San Francisco Bay and was encircled by the great, glittering white men-of-war which met to do her homage—like Andersen's Ugly Duckling among the swans—it was a picture not soon to be forgotten. San Francisco very naturally desired to keep the *Gjöa*, and she was mounted in Golden Gate Park, rather far from her native element. She was not so well taken care of as might be wished, but now the city has made up for past neglect. The *Gjöa* has been repaired, new wood put in place of the rotting planks, and the whole painted and treated with preservatives. It is to be hoped that she may long gladden the eyes of those who gather to see her.

### A Book on Jehol by Sven Hedin

Dr. Sven Hedin has now completed his work of erecting a Lama temple on the grounds of the exposition in Chicago, and has left to continue his explorations in China. In the midst of preparations for his trip he has found time to write a book which has appeared with the imprint of Dutton's, entitled *Jehol—City of Emperors*. The American explorer, Roy Chapman Andrews, reviewing the book in *The Saturday Review of Literature*, says that Dr. Hedin's book is in the highest degree timely, as it describes the locality now focusing world attention through the drive of the Japanese to assimilate the province of Jehol in Manchukuo. Dr. Andrews praises the author's gift of sympathy with the people he describes, his vivid imagination, and esthetic appreciation of his surroundings, by virtue of which he not only paints a vivid picture of the ancient temples in Jehol, but also recreates for the reader the historical events connected with them.

### A Model of the "Kalmar Nyckel"

The Historical Society in Wilmington, Delaware, has received a model of the *Kalmar Nyckel*, the first ship that came from Sweden to America, in 1638. The model was made in Gothenburg and is a present to the Historical Society from its president, Colonel George A. Elliott. The society is preparing for a celebration on a large scale in 1938, on the three-hundredth anniversary of the first Swedish colonization in America.

### Denmark's Day in Chicago

On Denmark's Day at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, June 21, an opera will be given, entitled *The Cimbrians*. As is well known, historians claim that the Cimbrians, or Cimbri, which formed the vanguard in the Germanic invasion of Rome, came from Himmerland in North Jutland. The theory has received a great deal of publicity through the works of Johannes V. Jensen,

himself a native of the same locality. An opera has now been composed by P. Marinus Paulsen, of Chicago, to the words by Dr. Norman Hansen, author of the text of the opera *Kaddara*.

Denmark's special representatives on the day set apart for her will be Prime Minister Stauning and Dr. Nils Bohr. The latter is to give lectures at Pasadena University this spring and is expected to arrive in April.

### Ski Matches in the United States

In spite of the scarcity of snow in recent years, the sport of skiing is becoming more and more popular here. Naturally, the Norwegians are taking the lead in organizing matches. The Norge Ski Club in Carey, Illinois, was enterprising enough to engage the Norwegian ski woman, Johanne Kolstad, who, it is claimed, attracted 25,000 spectators to the meet on January 15. She did not take part in the contest, but gave a fine exhibition of jumping. The Central United States championship was won on the same occasion by Casper Öimoen, of Minot, North Dakota, who was captain of the United States Olympic ski troupe at Lake Placid last winter.

### Mikkjel Fönhus in America

The Norwegian author Mikkjel Fönhus, known for his stories of animals, arrived here recently. He is going to explore the Middle West and Canada and will write articles for the newspaper *Nationen*. His best known work is *The Trail of the Elk*, which has been translated into English and appeared in book form. Several of his short stories have been printed in the REVIEW.

### Swedish Paintings in Hollywood

The well known Swedish artist, Olle Hjortzberg, has accepted an invitation to show his paintings in a gallery in Hollywood, owned by a Swedish art connoisseur, Mr. Axel Beskow. About thirty canvases will be sent.



CHRIS OLSEN AND A COLLEAGUE WORKING ON THE TIDE POOL GROUP IN DARWIN HALL AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

#### At the Museum of Natural History

Among the more interesting group exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History are the marine groups depicting the strange, weird, and exceedingly fantastic gardens of the "undersea world." Much of this work has been done by a Dane, Chris E. Olsen, who for more than sixteen years has been chief assistant in preparation in the department of living invertebrates of this institution.

Mr. Olsen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and came to this country in 1892 as a boy. Trained in art and architecture, he was for many years a member of the Modelers and Sculptors of America. During some of these years he served as modeler for the Hecla and other iron works. However, he has always had a warm heart for natural history work, and

when a call came from the museum for an artisan he could not resist.

Most noteworthy among his museum activities is the work on the Tide Pool Group, Bryozon Group, Gayhead Group, now on exhibition in the Darwin Hall of the Museum, and the magnificent but yet unfinished forty-ton Bahama Coral Reef Group in the Hall of Ocean Life. This latest and tremendous task will probably be completed during 1933.

Being skilled in oil painting, Mr. Olsen has studied and painted extensively undersea scenes of the Bahama coral reefs. His pictures have been shown at many exhibitions in and about New York. Last month he had a one-man show at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia. From there, this exhibition will travel in the southeastern States for several months.

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**Associates:** All who are in sympathy with the aims of the Foundation are invited to become Associates. **Regular Associates**, paying \$3.00 annually, receive the REVIEW. **Sustaining Associates**, paying \$10.00 annually, receive the REVIEW and CLASSICS. **Life Associates**, paying \$200.00 once for all, receive all publications.

## Trustees' Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The American-Scandinavian Foundation was held in the new house at 116 East 64th Street, New York City, for the first time, on Saturday, February 4. Luncheon was served in the Schofield Library, after which the reports of the President, Secretary and executive committee, and the treasurer were presented. The chairman of the nominations committee submitted a panel of officers and committees for 1933, and the Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for their election. A list follows:

President, Henry Goddard Leach; vice-presidents, Charles S. Haight, John A. Gade, William Hovgaard; treasurer, H. Esk. Moller; secretary, Neilson Abeel; literary secretary, Hanna Astrup Larsen; counsel, Henry E. Almberg; auditors, David Elder & Company.

**Committees:** Executive Committee—The President (chairman), the Treasurer, James Creese, Charles S. Haight, John G. Bergquist, John A. Gade, George E. Vincent. Foreign Relations—John A. Gade (chairman), Charles S. Haight, Owen D. Young, William Hovgaard, Charles J. Rhoads. Finance—John G. Bergquist (chairman), John D. Hage, H. Esk. Moller, E. A. Cappelen-Smith, G.

Hilmer Lundbeck, Hans Christian Sonne. Applications—William Hovgaard (chairman), John A. Gade, George E. Vincent, James Creese, Henry Goddard Leach. Publications—W. W. Lawrence (chairman), John A. Gade, Frederic Schaefer, Henry Goddard Leach, James Creese, Hanna Astrup Larsen. Endowment—Charles S. Haight (chairman), Edwin O. Holter, Charles S. Peterson, Frederic Schaefer, Hamilton Holt, George N. Jeppson, Charles J. Rhoads. REVIEW Promotion—Frederic Schaefer (chairman), George N. Jeppson, John G. Bergquist, H. Esk. Moller.

The guests at the meeting were His Excellency Otto Wadsted, Minister of Denmark, and Consul General Georg Bech, Consul General Olof H. Lamm, and Consul General Wilhelm Morgenstierne.

## Fellows of the Foundation

Mr. Hans Furuholmen, Fellow of the Foundation from Norway, who has been enrolled in the student banking course at the National City Bank, sailed for home on March 1. Mr. Furuholmen, who has been living at International House while in New York, was chairman of the Scandinavian group there.

Mr. Kai Maartensson, Fellow of the Foundation from Denmark, who has been

enrolled in the student banking course at the Bankers Trust Company, also sailed for home on March 1.

Miss Barbro Hallendorff, Fellow of the Foundation from Sweden, who has been making a study of American libraries and who spent some time as a student worker in the Library of Congress, has returned to Stockholm, where she will resume her position in the library of the Commercial High School.

Miss Anna-Greta Nordström, Fellow of the Foundation from Sweden, who has been studying at the Essex County Hospital in New Jersey, has transferred her activities to the Medical Center in New York City.

#### Chicago Chapter

On January 16 the Chicago Chapter held a dinner and meeting at the Swedish Club in honor of Carl Sandburg, the noted author and poet. More than one hundred and seventy guests attended. The Honorable Ira Nelson Morris, president of the Chicago Chapter, presided. In his speech he outlined the work carried on by the Foundation. Mr. G. Bernard Anderson, chairman of the entertainment committee, spoke on Mr. Sandburg's work; later Mr. Sandburg gave a reading and recitation, and entertained the audience by singing old Western songs and sea chanteys to the accompaniment of his guitar. Among the guests present were the Consuls of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, and Mr. Vincent Bendix. Before the dinner, a reception was held for Mr. and Mrs. Sandburg and the newly elected officers of the Chapter. This most successful affair marks the beginning of renewed activity on the part of our Chicago Associates, who form such an important part of the Foundation's membership.

#### New York Chapter

The regular Club Night of the New York Chapter was held at the Hotel Plaza on Friday, January 20. The audience showed much appreciation of the musical program presented by Margaret Olsen Stanley, soprano, and James Stanley, basso. The guests of the evening were the Consul General of Norway and Mrs. Morgenstierne. The hostesses were Mrs. H. Osterberg and Mrs. Harold Rambusch.

#### In Boston

The American-Scandinavian Forum held a meeting at Phillips Brooks House, Harvard University, on January 27, at which Dr. F. Stanton Cawley, Assistant Professor of Scandinavian Languages and Literature, spoke on "A Runic Inscription from Minnesota—Fraud or Fact?"

On February 15, the Forum held a meeting at the same place, at which Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart, Eaton Professor of the Science of Government Emeritus in Harvard University, spoke on "Gustav Adolph's Service to Mankind."

#### Rare Old Swedish Books at Yale

The Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University owns a remarkable collection of Swedish books and manuscripts. Professor Adolph B. Benson has now arranged an exhibition of some of the older and rarer of these, including first editions and books long since out of print. Perhaps the greatest treasure in the exhibition is a group of original manuscripts and early printed editions of St. Birgitta's *Revelations*. New Sweden is of course well represented, and there is a translation of Luther's Catechism into what is called the "American-Virginian" language. It was printed in Stockholm in 1696, and is no doubt the earliest translation of the Catechism into any Indian dialect.



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ITS CONTRIBUTORS

**Manne Hofrén** is curator of the Kalmar Museum, which he assisted in arranging some ten years ago. . . . **Wilhelm Keilhau** occupies the chair of economics at the Nobel Peace Institute in Oslo, and is assistant professor at the University. His book on Norway and the World War has appeared in English. Among his most important books is a history of Norway in the years 1814-45. . . . **A. C. Kaarsen** is a Copenhagen writer on economics, an editor of *Dagens Nyheder*, and a contributor to *Politiken*. . . . **Dr. Svend Lornholt** is director of the Dermatological Clinic in the Finsen Institute in Copenhagen, and has written many books on

medical and social-hygienic subjects. . . .

**Johannes V. Jensen**, leader of the modern "Jutland School" in Danish literature, appropriately writes a tribute to Steen Steensen Blicher, who first found the literary possibilities in the life of the people on the Jutland heath.



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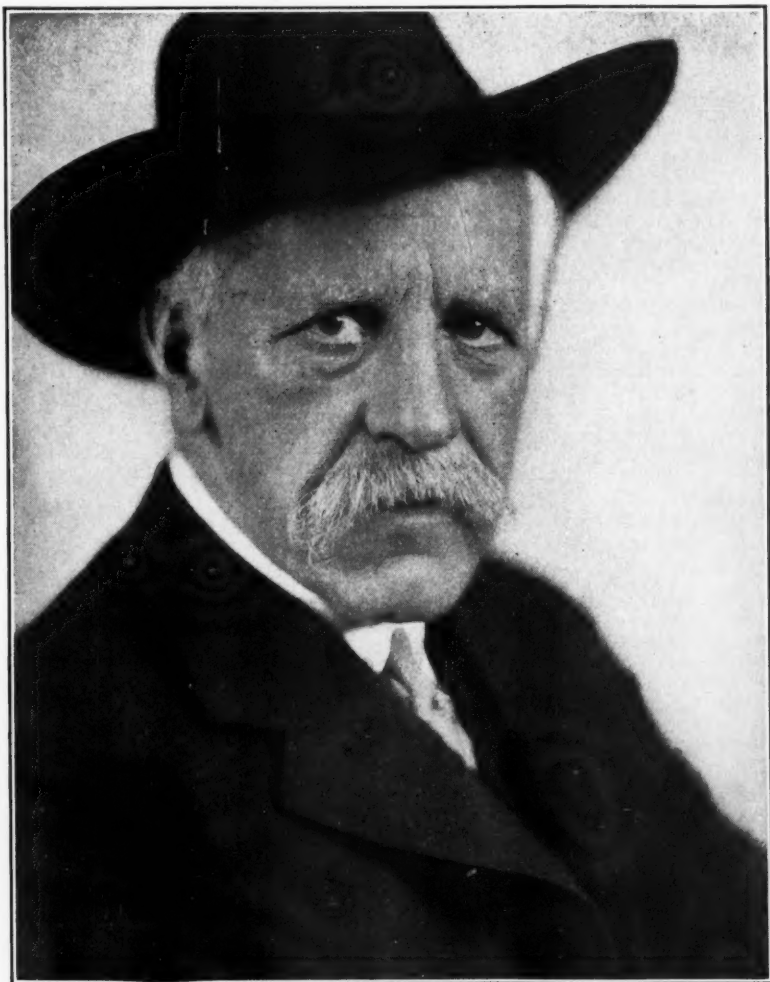
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## TRADE NOTES

### NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ASSURED

Through the action of the Norwegian Government, the reopening of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce in New York City is assured by the inclusion in the budget of \$3,000 annually as part of the money necessary to carry on the work. The matter has to come before the Storting, but there is no doubt that the legislators will support any movement which has for its purpose increased trade relations between Norway and the United States. The former Chamber ceased operations in 1923, but persistent efforts have been made for its reestablishment. For that purpose a Norwegian delegation attended the Chamber of Commerce Congress in Washington in 1931, subsequently to which a committee was formed in Oslo. Besides the Norwegian government contribution, there remains \$3,000 as a balance from the former Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce of New York.

### SWEDEN OCCUPIES LEADING POSITION AS EXPORTER OF WOOD PULP

Sweden occupies third place as producer of wood pulp and first as exporter of this commodity. According to a report of the Swedish Royal Board of Trade, the total annual quantity of wood pulp produced in the world is about 16,000,000 tons. The United States heads the list with about one-fourth of the world production, with Canada occupying second place. Sweden's production is about 15 per

cent of the world output, and of this amount it exports about 70 per cent, with an average value for the past eight years of approximately 250,000,000 kronor. The United States is Sweden's best customer of wood pulp, taking about 40 per cent of the total production.

### DENMARK-EGYPT TRADE AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT

In looking for an extension of its exports, Denmark has found Egypt ready to buy both agricultural products and manufactured articles in considerable quantities. The Danish Minister at Cairo, Mr. Arnstedt, is given credit for the increased trade with Egypt. He has been keeping the exporters of his country acquainted with the particular requirements of the Egyptian market. With Cairo as the central distributing point, the Danish exporters expect to further extend their business to other parts of North Africa.

### NORWEGIAN HYDRO COMPANY EXPERIMENTS WITH NEW NITRATE METHOD

*Morgenbladet* of Oslo states that engineers of the Norwegian Hydro Company's plant at Notodden have been experimenting with a new method for the production of nitrate through the use of sea water and without the employment of soda. It is reported that new plants for the purpose of making the new product marketable may be built at Herøya. In view of the comparative cheapness of the new synthetic nitrate, it is expected to meet the competition of the Chili nitrate which is dug from the soil of that country.

### COPENHAGEN MERCHANTS' SCHOOL OPENS LONDON BRANCH

Directors Vibæk and Tillge of the Merchants' School in Copenhagen have been in London where a large house has been bought in the suburb of Ealing for the purpose of extending the activities of the Danish trade-school system in England. This movement is part of a plan of Danish trade and financial interests to familiarize the young men with foreign affairs through their residence abroad, where they will be in direct touch with conditions that make for reciprocal relations. They will be quartered in the homes of private families in order to gain a more direct knowledge of English social customs.

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